

THE COMPLETE SPORTS CALENDAR FOR 1999



Love, death and dishonour

12 Britons kidnapped in Yemen

BY KIM SENGUPTA

TWELVE BRITISH tourists were ambushed and taken hostage in Yemen yesterday by armed tribesmen.

The party was among 17 Western tourists travelling in a convoy of 15 vehicles when they were attacked on the road to Aden by about 10 tribesmen using automatic rifles.

During an exchange of fire between the attackers and policemen escorting the holidaymakers, one British tourist and a Yemeni guide managed to escape in one of the have reached the town of Mawdiyah in Abyan province, and alerted the security forces.

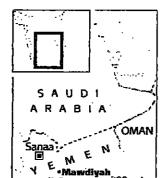
The other 16 tourists, including two Americans and two Australians, were abducted by the raiders and driven off into Abyan, as police and soldiers began to search the area.

Security officials confirmed the kidnappings but could not about the incident." provide any details. There has been no report of any ransom

Bani Dhabyan tribe are holding four Germans, three women and a man, hostage in Marib province, 100 miles north-east

of the capital, Sanaa. Tribesmen in Yemen have often kidnapped foreigners to press the government and oil companies working in the country to meet demands such as invoroving infrastructure. They at more schools, hospitals. telephone lines and roads. Hostages tend to be released

unhurt. The Foreign Office said last



night it was in touch with the Yemeni government and vehicles. They are believed to urgently seeking clarification of what happened. A spokesman said: "We are taking all measures necessary and it is our top priority to ensure the safe and swift return of the

> He said: "We are in close touch with the Yemen authorities in Sanaa and London and we are seeking clarification

The trip was organised by a tour company which was last night trying to contact the fam-The abduction brings the illes of the missing holidayumber of Westerners held makers in Britain, Staff from the hostage in Yemen to 20. The British embassy in Sanaa are expected to travel to Abyan province today.

> The holidaymakers are believed to be on a desert safari and were on their way from the town of Habban to Aden when they were kidnapped. A Foreign Ministry official in the Yemeni capital said the terrain where the tourists disappeared was extremely inhospitable and barren and there were obvious fears for their safety.

In October 1997 Henry Thompson, a 38-year-old British aid worker, was kid-

Thompson a specialist in water projects who had worked briefly for Japan International Cooperation Agency, was held for 18 days in the mountains of northern Yemen. He was released safely after negotiations between the tribesman and the Yemeni government. He was snatched along with

his driver, Mohammed Abdul Zabyan, by men from the Bani Zabyan tribe as they drove along a busy main road 45 miles south of Sanaa. He was then taken to a tribal stronghold where government control is

Negotiations between the government and his captors. who demanded a road, water supply and a clinic for their district. began almost immediately.

During his captivity Mr Thompson wrote a letter which was released by fax from his kidnappers. It read: "We are very comfortable, well-fed and the people are courteous."

Most kidnappings of foreigners in Yemen have been resolved with government promises of cash or a present to tribal leaders such as a car. The Yemeni government believes that many kidnappings are inspired by the political opposition, with financial backing from Saudi Arabia.

Yemen is keen to play down the abduction of foreigners. fearing that it will frighten off future tourists.

The economy received a massive blow when Saudi Arabia expelled 850.000 Yemeni workers in 1990 because it felt Yemen was too friendly to Iraq. The annual per head income is less than £300.



Iraqi workers constructing a monument to President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad vesterday

Iraq fires missiles at US jets

JUST 10 days after the United States and Britain halted air strikes against Iraq, Baghdad fired missiles at US aircraft enforcing the no-fly zone over northern Iraq vesterday. The Americans fired back, killing

four Iraqis. The attack came despite a four-night air offensive intend-

ed to diminish Iraq's ability to hit back at Allied forces. President Bill Clinton said America would carry on patrolling the skies over Iraq, de-

BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

spite the threat to its aircraft. "Our pilots have the authority to protect themselves if they are attacked. They took appropriate action today in responding to Iraq's actions," he said. "We will continue to enforce the

no-fly zones." According to the US Department of Defense, Iraqi air defence forces fired three surface-to-air missiles at US F-16s

over northern Iraq. "There was an aggressive Iraqi action against US fighter aircraft in support of Operation Northern Watch," said a Pentagon spokesman

Our aircraft responded within normal rules of engagement." They took evasive action and then fired anti-radar missiles and precision-guided bombs at the Iraqi sites. US F-15s and electronic warfare aircraft were also involved.

"Many hostile formations vi-

tercepted and forced [the planes] to flee, returning to the bases of evil and aggression in Turkey." The aircraft returned and "fired their criminal missiles towards one of our positions", it said. "Our air defences forced

sive acts led to the martyrdom

itary communique. "They an-

olated Iraqi air space coming of four of our brave fighters and from Turkey," said an Iraqi milinjuries [to another] seven."

The US aircraft, based at Inproached our air defences, cirlik in Turkey were patrolling which bravely and capably inthe no-fly zone established over northern Iraq in 1991 after the end of the Gulf War to protect the Kurds. As well as Kurdishheld territory, the northern zone covers Mosul, an important city and military base for Iraq, which was a target of the Allied attacks earlier this them to flee... These aggresmonth

Julie Flint, Review, page 4

* NO NUMBER

CHANGE RECHIRED

Cunningham fails to stop the feuding

THE GOVERNMENT attempted to repair the damage of its worst week in office yesterday with a stern warning to minis-ers to end the in-fighting that accompanied the resignation of Peter Mandelson.

The Cabinet's "enforcer". Jack Cunningham, said anonymous and unauthorised briefings by spin-doctors in recent weeks had clouded the message of Labour's key manifesto policies on jobs, health and education.

Yet as he sought to draw a line under the Mandelson affair, speculation at Westminster centred on Tony Blair's failure to appoint a replacement for Hoon, a well-known Blairite,

BY PAUL WAUGH **Political Correspondent**

Geoffrey Robinson, who quit as paymaster-general last week after he was revealed as the source of Mr Mandelson's loan. Commentators regard it as highly unusual that he has not been replaced. Geoff Hoon, Minister of State

in the Lord Chancellor's Department, was widely expected to take up the job, despite objections from Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, that he needed him to steer crucial legal reforms through the Commons. The appointment of Mr



Hoon: Difficult position

may also be opposed by the Gordon Brown camp. He could be seen as a replacement for Stephen Byers - the former chief secretary to the treasury

who replaced Mr Mandelson as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry - as the Prime Minister's eves and ears in the Chancellor's department.

Party sources claimed yesterday that Mr Blair may want to downgrade the role of paymaster-general or incorporate it into another minister's portfolio in a deliberate attempt to curb the influence of Mr Brown. As Mr Robinson received no government salary, it may also be too costly to fill his post this year

In what was seen as a clear shot across the bows of Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's press spokesman, who has been accused of leaking infor-

mation about Mr Mandelson, Mr Cunningham said yesterday that unauthorised briefings "ought to stop". He admitted for

the first time that there were ministers who wanted to "conduct their own agenda" even if it conflicted with the aims of the Government. "It cannot be allowed to continue and we have to put an end to it," he said.

"There have been briefings from time to time which have been damaging to the Government. Collectively, unauthorised briefings have caused trouble for the Government, are causing trouble, and ought Mr Cunningham's comments

are the most explicit indication yet that the Chancellor may

have to fire Mr Whelan. The Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, Malcolm Bruce, said of the Government's disarray: "You cannot have effective government by faction. If Mr Blair cannot control a Treasury press officer, how can he hope to run the

country? John Redwood, the shadow Trade and Industry Secretary. added: "There is a civil war at the very top of this government. The Prime Minister needs to return from his holiday and assert his authority."

Spin culture, page 2

PRIMUS GLOBAL Network • GLOBAL Savings • GLOBAL Sense 40p: NATIONAL RATES MAURITIUS 18p AUSTRALIA 40p 31p 15p SOUTH AFRICA AUSTRIA HONG KONG 32p BARBADOS NEW ZEALAND 29p 15p FALKLAND ISLES ALL RATES ARE INCLUSIVE OF MATIANS PREE CALLS WHEN YOU RE-CHARGE* NO LINE CHANGE ND BISTALLATION

Gangs smuggle 4,000 migrants a month to UK

ORGANISED GANGS are smug- By JASON BENNETTO gling up to 4,000 illegal immigrants and asylum-seekers into Britain every month, according to the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS). Officers are alarmed at how

the gangs are moving into the illegal trade and exploiting the hopes of many refugees of finding a better life in the UK. Some 20 gangs charge the

Crime Correspondent

migrants from £250 to £15,000. The more expensive "packages" include the services of a You tend to get packages solicitor to assist in claiming benefits, "safe" houses, and work in restaurants, farms and backstreet "sweat shops".

The NCIS's recently formed Organised Immigration Crime they are distributed to other bringing in up to 250 people

Section has also detected a parts of the country where they growing market in forged and counterfeit documents. An NCIS spokesman said: "There is a UK end of the operation. pendent provide the most com-

people will pay for transporta-

tion and advice on benefits and

approaching the Home Office. "There is a system of 'safe' houses for them to stay until month. The top four gangs are

each month, they say. Lorry dri-smuggling has become so sewill be found work." Details of the rackets given

by NCIS officers to The Inde-Home Office figures show that 8,000 people were caught prehensive picture yet of clandestine immigration. The entering Britain illegally in the NCIS estimates that between past year - less than a third of the lowest NCIS estimate. A fur-2,000 and 4,000 people are smuggled into Britain every ther 7,000 were caught coming into Britain hidden in lorries. The scale of organised

vers are paid about £500 to vere that MI5 and MI6 have smuggle in a load of 20 people, been assisting authorities. according to police sources.

The three main nationalities of organised smugglers are the Turks, the Chinese and Asians from the sub-continent - mainly Indians, but some Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. The biggest single group being smuggled are Kosovo Albanians. £250 for 'new life', page

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Yacht race disaster Officials abandoned the sea search for a British Olympic yachtsman Home P3

invasion of Broadway Half 1998's best shows in the US were British

Censure for Clinton Censure rather than removal from office looks likely for US President Foreign P8

Kosovo withdrawal Monitors may be forced to leave Serbian province Foreign P8

Stock market star Star of the year, the tiny Costa Rican exchange soared 90% in value Business P13

Liverpool recovery Liverpool came from 0-2 to beat Newcastle 4-2 Sport P20

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Can someone please remind me how the alphabet goes Comment P2

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of the Millennium?

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Who will be Personality

Terence Blacker On acute calendar anxiety and global crack-up Comment P4

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

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Political spin culture here to stay

JACK CUNNINGHAM'S ciarioncall yesterday for an end to "unauthorised briefings" of journalists by ministerial advisers will raise a hollow laugh among many at Westminster who have become used to a daily diet of spin and counter-

Every minister now has a special adviser, the euphemism for spin-doctor, individuals paid with public money to perform an essentially party political service. From Agriculture to the Foreign Office, each Whitehall department has one, sometimes two, political advisers ready to rebut the claims of the Tories and advance the Government's agenda. The American idea of a political aide who aggressively pushes a "line" to ournalists worked superbly for Labour in opposition as it harried the Conservatives under

Tensions between different shadow ministers were known, particularly the unhappiness of the Gordon Brown camp that he had been forced out of the party leadership, but the desperate desire to win the general

BY PAUL WALIGH Political Correspondent

election meant dissent was negligible. It was only after the Government won its landslide in May 1997 that the cracks began to appear and the hidden factions slowly reasserted themselves.

Some observers now claim that the Blair administration resembles a medieval court, a Camelot where every knight at

ALASTAIR CAMPBELL

Former political editor of

Blair's official press secre-

ful language and sharp

media antennae set the

CHARLIE WHELAN

the Daily Mirror, now Tony

tary. The man whose colour-

standard for other wannabe

The Chancellor's spokesman

and so retains healthy disre-

spect for lobby correspon-

is not a former journalist

or her jealousies reinforced by their personal henchmen in the form of spin-doctors.

Some, like Charlie Whelan. are so different from their ministers that they can speak the unspeakable. Others, like Joe McCrea. Frank Dobson's adviser, are like pets who resemble their owners and can be relied upon to give you their every thought. Of course, every Cabinet has its divisions, and

THE SPINMEISTERS

"bollocks" - in reply to most

Peter Mandelson's 26-year-

old former aide mirrored his

master's use of cunning to

proach than most, but still

plant stories. Gentler ap-

Adviser to Frank Dobson,

LIGHTING UP

dents. Favourite phrase is

media queries.

WEGG-PROSSER

BENJAMIN

JOE McCREA

the Cabinet round table has his special advisers were first es- with so many career battles and tablished under the Tories as a means of getting their message across more robustly.

But the Conservative advisers were often ineffectual and small in number compared with the professional and slick machine Labour built up, most of whose staff landed jobs in government immediately, often on large salaries that horrified civil servants. The Labour government is also distinguished

the Health Secretary, made

his name in opposition as

Labour scored hit after hit

on the Tories' hospital clo-

sures. "Rottweiler" tenden-

John Prescott's special ad-

viser is the antithesis of the

brash and duplicitous image

of New Labour spin-doc-

tors. Quietly effective and

does not court lobby jour-

EXTREMES

cies now subdued.

JOE IRVIN

personal fiefdoms that to simplify the issue into Brownites and Blairites is a mistake.

One of the main problems with the spin culture is that each adviser is appointed to an individual minister. As with football managers and their assistants, if the minister loses his job, so does the spinmeister.

As a result, they are flercely loyal breed and, as has been seen most graphically in the Mandelson/Brown divisions, can use the tactics developed against the Opposition to undermine fellow ministers.

The difficulty for Mr Cunningham is that ministers themselves, as well as their charges, are responsible for off-the-record briefings that promote their careers or causes at the expense of colleagues.

Once the spin-doctor genie has been let out, it may prove incredibly difficult to get it back into the bottle. Or, to paraphrase the Prime Minister's own press secretary, Alastair Campbell, attempts to end the spin cycle may just be "crap, that's C-R-A-P, crap."



Charlie Whelan (left) who voices for his master, Gordon Brown Michael Crobtree

FORECAST

ral situation it will become increasingly windy across Northern Ireland evere gales possible. There will also be prolonged spells of heavy rain. In Scotland, Wales and western England will start mainly dry, but it will become very windy with rain edging slowly eastwards during the afternoon in Scotland and eastern England will remain generally dry but any early spells will disappear as cloud builds bringing a growing risk of rain. It will ce) quite cold in the strengthening wind.

Cent S England, Wildlands, Cent N England: Increasingly windy and cloudy rain edges eastwards. A strong south-easterly wind. Max temp 6-7C (43-45F).

N treland: Very windy with heavy rain lingering into the afternoon. A strong to gale force south-easterly wind. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F). SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Very windy with rain soon break out. A strong to gale force south-easterly wind, Max temp 4-5C (39-41F). SE & ALE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdean, N Isles: A rather cold and frosty start for most places, but it will be bright before doud increases bringing rain towards evening. A freshening south-easterly wind. Max temp 3-5C (37-41F).

The far north-west will still be very windy comorrow. The south-east will have dris-sly rain, but it will be mild for much of the country, with a mixture of sunny spells and scattered showers. Thursday will see further outbreaks of rain for most places.

Briston: MS J18-19: Maper Incomments on Avonmouth Bindge Until 23nd June 2001 Monimouthshipte: A449 between Ush A472 and M4 J24. Roadworks. Until 11th January.

HIGH TIDES - - 12.41 7.40 3.1 7.52 SUN & MOON WEATHERLINE

Coldest (day): Arlemore OC (32F) Wettest: Aspatria 0.63 ins Sunnlest: Newark 3.5 hrs 3.9 0.09 0 0.35 0.16 0.06 0.35 0.23 RAIN OR

SHINE...

THOUSANDS of homes and businesses in Scotland were last night facing a third night without electricity after the weekend storms, and some could still be without power today. Scottish Power had hoped to reconnect about 20,000 customers by midnight but said it had been hampered by further poor weather on Sunday night and problems of access to remote areas because of fallen trees and debris.

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Children in prostitution not criminals'

THE MAJORITY of child prosti- By JASON BENNETTO tutes should escape prosecu- Crime Correspondent tion, with police and courts tomers instead, according to government guidelines reeased yesterday.

The authorities want to treat children, who are sold for sex; as victims and offer them help rather than punishment.

The shift in emphasis comes in a joint Home Office and Department of Health report that said there are child prostitutes in many towns, working on the streets and in flats. It added that child prostitutes often comes from local authority homes, families with "severe problems", or are runaways befriended by pimps.

The new guidelines for the police, social services, probation, courts, and organisations working with young people, stressed that child prostitutes should only be prosecuted in extreme circumstances.

Recent studies have suggested the number of children selling their bodies is greatly underestimated and is rising.

Pilot schemes in Nottingham and Wolverhampton involved contacting 125 prostitutes aged from 11 to 18 - four times the number of child prostitutes than had been thought to work in the towns. They led to the prosecution of 22 men and three women for rape, sexual intercourse with a child under 16. kidnapping, assault and living off immoral earnings. Yesterday's report, "Guid-

Prostitution", which has been issued for consultation, said: "There are children involved in prostitution in many parts of Britain. They may not be obvious on the streets. But there will be children being abused through prostitution in rooms and flats in many towns. This is a hidden problem; we do not, know how many children are it volved. We can, however, be certain this problem exists."

Figures for 1995-96 show that 177 children under the age of 17 were convicted of offences relating to prostitution. A further 207 - including a 12year-old girl - were cautioned. While the Government re-

sisted calls to decriminalise prostitution for children, saying -it would send out the wrong message, it said the courts should only be used in cases where the child "freely" and "continually" tried to offer sex for money. This definition effectively rules out almost all cases against child prostitutes. W

The Children's Society argued that unless child prostitution was decriminalised. children who were victims of \$ abuse were still liable to being punished. "This is bad law and dangerous practice. There is no excuse at all for a law that punishes abused children," he said. The Association of Chief Police Officers said it welcomed

the guidelines.

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Top sailors call it Hell on High Water. This year, the race lived up to its name

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

HOPES OF finding four missing sailors including a British Olympic competitor had all but disappeared last night after the worst disaster to hit the yachting world in two decades.

Officials called off the search for Glyn Charles, who was washed overboard from his yacht, Sword of Orion, during the notoriously tough Sydney to Hobart race. Two other sailors were confirmed to have died, while a further three were still missing.

The search for Glyn Charles has been called off and his family have been notified of that decision. The area was searched thoroughly and there was simply no point in carrying on," said a spokesman for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. "It is now nightfall and we are assuming he has drowned. He has been out there in 10-metre waves and 80-kilometre winds. He will be a superman if he makes it."

By last night, 67 boats - well over half the starters - had abandoned the race and were heading for safe harbour, with dozens arriving at the New South Wales port of Eden. Many of the crew members were in tears as they stepped ashore from their battered yachts. All were exhausted.

David Evelyn, of the Wheelhouse Restaurant, overlooking the harbour, said: "All the crews have been saying it's the worst seas they have seen. Ambulances rushed to the dock to take the wounded to hospital. Many people were in shock. It has been pretty chaotic."

With six sailors either dead or missing, presumed drowned, and 56 needing to pulled from the sea, this year's Sydney-Hobart race is the worst disaster to hit the yachting world since the 1979 Fastnet race. which claimed 15 lives.



A photograph taken by a crew member of the Stand Aside, showing the mountainous seas confronting the race competitors

Sydney three days ago for a classic race across 630 miles of formidable seas to the Tasmanian capital. Nicknamed "Hell on High Water", it is a

race famous for its severity.

Veterans - including the former prime minister Ted Heath, who won in 1969 skippering Morning Cloud - tell of mountainous waves, winds of 80mph and hours spent struggling to cover just a few miles.

But it is also a race that attracts the world's best sailors and those who passed under turned waves in to "moun-Sydney Harbour bridge at 1pm on Boxing Day knew what they could expect.

As the hours passed, however, so the conditions worsened. The crews were lashed by winds of up to 80 knots and swells of almost 10 metres. For many it rapidly became a battle for survival

Throughout the day the storm continued to build, culminating in hurricane-force

tains". Coupled with cruel tides. the gale sent 13-metre-high walls of water crashing over the yachts every 30 seconds, leaving 23 sunk or abandoned.

"It is not a race for beginners," said Ashley Cargill, 33, navigator with the India Pacific - one of more than 40 crews who turned back and headed for Eden.

"We are a pretty seasoned crew and we knew what to

worst conditions we have ber to turn back. It took them experienced. We had 62-knot winds coming across the deck and waves of more than eight metres. The boat was getting knocked about all over the place. Four of our crew were

seasick. I think the boat would have been fine but the crew were exhausted." would be even worse when they entered the Bass Strait in

Knowing that conditions the "Roaring Forties", the crew

12 hours to cover the 45 miles to Eden. Others were not so fortunate.

Six members of the crew of the Winston Churchill, which was built in 1942, were winched to safety from life-rafts but three of their colleagues had earlier been swept into the sea.

Two sailors from the Business Post Naiad, which had lost its mast, died after a ninemetre wave smashed into the winds which, survivors said, expect but these were easily the decided at 1pm on 27 Decem-yacht. One died from a heart

being swept into the sea still attached to his lifeline. Glyn Charles, 33, from

attack, the other drowned after

Emsworth, Hampshire - an Olympic sailor who had taken part in four Admiral's Cup events - was washed overboard from his 43ft vacht when it rolled at about 8.30am GMT on Sunday.

Rescuers, including helicopters crews using thermal imaging equipment and seven

He was swept overboard after Sword of Orion lost its mast and capsized, flinging

their efforts.

Richard Winning, skipper of the Winston Churchill, who was flown to safety after his yacht was lost

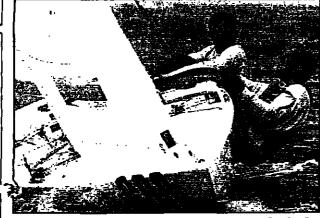
AP

24 hours before abandoning

Post Naiad:

Sword of Orion:

Last night Sayonara - owned and skippered by the US computer executive Larry Ellison. and with Lachlan Murdoch, the son of the media tycoon Rupert Murdoch - was leading the



British team stunned by storm tragedy

GLYN CHARLES – the British Olympic yachtsman presumed drowned after being washed overboard in the Sydney to Hobart race – was almost certain to have represented Britain for the second time at an Olympic Games, in Sydney

Mr Charles was an experienced sailor who had taken part in four Admiral's Cup events. He had competed in the 1996 Atlanta Games, when he finished 11th in the Star Class By STUART ALEXANDER

event with his partner George Skuodas when the races were held off Savannah, Georgia.

His absence will mark a second blow to British Olympic sailing in just over 15 months. Last year, in Italy, the 1996 silver medallist John Merricks was killed in a car crash.

The loss of Glyn Charles prompted disbelief and despair among friends and fellow comnity last night. Most of the rest of the Olympic squad is in Australia for the series of world championships in Melbourne.

His Olympic coach, Rod Carr, said: "He was so keen on sailing. He just wanted to sail all the time, and he was always up for a race."

Charles had been coaching Andy Beadsworth in Sydney as part of his succession in the Soling's class build-up to Melbourne when he met Steve

sailed for Australia in the 1997 Admiral's Cup after sailing for Britain in the three previous international team championship regattas.

Kulmar invited him along for the Sydney to Hobart race so Charles cancelled his intended flight home to England for Christmas and

arranged instead to go on to Melbourne to pick up his gear. Born in Wales on 4 September 1965, he had come to

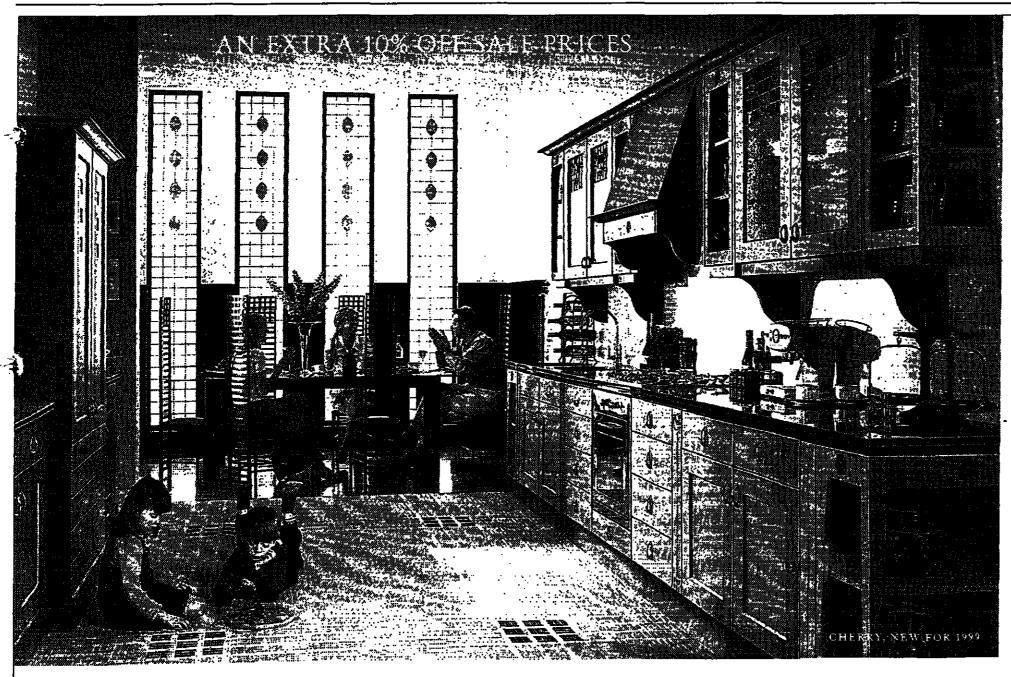
the single-handed Laser Class, winning the national championship a year later.

In 1988 and 1992, he tried for the British Olympic place in the three-man Soling event, only to be pipped by Lawrie Smith. But he turned the tables on Smith in the 2-man Star Class for the 1996 Games.

Last night, after the search for him was called off, his mother, Margaret, paid tribute to her "enthusiastic and won-

her son had died doing what he loved most

"I always used to say if something happened to Glyn while he was sailing he was doing the thing he loved most. Glyn has been dedicated to sailing since a small boy and it was wonderful that he achieved his great ambition by competing in the 1996 Olympics." She added: "We shall miss him terribly and his great



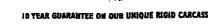


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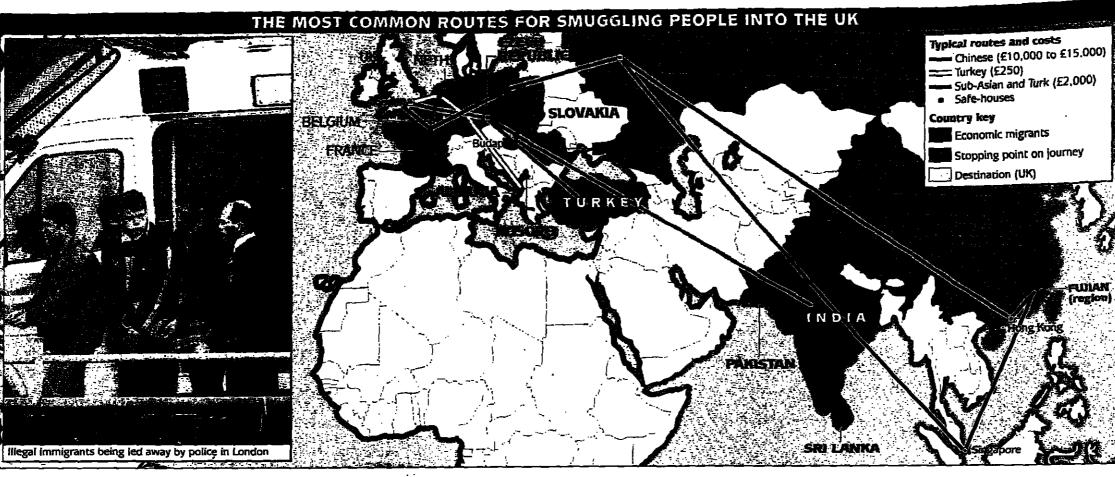






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Opening bourse The 26th Thirts Has Dec 9am Sport For the Joh Harm-Sport (England and Wales) North Stores (Local National Sport (England and Wales) Harm-Sport (England and Wales) Harm-Spo From Large "When company a Section a harden purchase or hading model man. Full, anguing it had no solve Whitehald Marks" or No. 1984 to When you go st for Mine more contained in processor and man processor and man freedom to the contract of the contract /**%** '



£250 to buy a new life in Britain

be smuggled into Britain. They

WHEN POLICE found 103 Ro- BY JASON BENNETTO manians crammed into the back of a lorry in Kent this month, the discovery focused attention on the cheap end of a multi-million pound industry.

People-smuggling has become big business for an estimated 20 international organised crime gangs that are bringing between 2,000 and 4,000 illegal immigrants into Britain every month.

The Romanians probably licitor and a job in a kitchen.

Crime Correspondent

taken to a safe house in Belgium before being driven to England in a lorry trailer, but some of the Chinese immigrants who arrive illegally in Chinatown, central London, pay up to £15,000 for a "firstclass ticket". For this price

they can get take identification. a flight, the help of a bent so-

Criminal Intelligence Service forged original documents. The (NCIS), people-samggling is a growing problem that is atmethod can also involve people impersonating the legitimate tracting an increasing number of highly organised gangs. owners of the documents. The "second-class" route involves NCIS says that while some of hiding in the back of a lorry or the people being brought in by small boat. the crime gangs are among the The Chinese pay the most to

plied for asylum this year, most sometimes pay in instalments with families in China being are economic migrants looking for a better life. charged exorbitant interest on outstanding balances. One of There are two basic smugthe largest smuggling groups is gling systems. People going known to bring in 250 people a

volves a flight to Hong Kong or controls. They are taken to Singapore, with an onward connection to Moscow, Prague or Budanest.

Smugglers who arrange the European end of the transport sometimes organise their convoys along military lines, with a forward reconnaissance vehicle, a rear guard, and drivers who use night-vision goggles and walkie talkies to take their human cargo across the frontier. Once inside the EU, move-

month, and a typical route in- ment is easy with few border France, Belgium or the Netherlands and kept in a safe house before crossing to Britain via ferry or the Channel tunnel with fake papers, or hidden in the back of a lorry. Occasionally a small boat brings them across.

Dover is the most popular port of arrival, but Hull, Felixstowe, Harwich and south coast ports are also used.

Fixers from the Subcontinent usually charge their

or Moscow, then follow the same route as the Chinese. A growth area for both gangs has been in the trafficking of

Lankan clients about £2,000 a

person. They provide false doc-

uments to get them into Prague

eastern Europeans, most noticeably Romanians, Slovaks and Czechs. Albanians, often pretending to be from the Serbian province of Kosovo, are the biggest group coming into the UK. They pay about £200 each to be smuggled in the back of a lorry to Germany and then on to the Netherlands. A further £50 gets them a ride in the back of a lorry to the UK.

Once in Britain most migrants head for London where some of the deals include advice on how to claim benefit and how to apply for asylum.

Many of the criminals are using established drug routes to bring in their human cargo. Smuggling people has proved to be a profitable extra income for the gangs, but unlike drug trafficking does not carry the risk of a heavy jail sentence. "People General Dezso Kovacs of cause they border Germany, gary and, because of Schengen, have become just another com-the Gyor border guards said: Hungary is likely to join the EU once they are here they will be modity to make money from,"

Massive Attack sees off old guard

pto egal

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

ANYONE OVER 30 should stop reading here. As the year draws to a close and critics rush to catalogue the events, people and anthems of the year, a poli of Radio 1's listeners to find the all-time top 100 has chosen few of the old classics.

Instead of a familiar clutch of Beatles, Rolling Stones and Elvis Presley numbers, the chart paid homage to more modern bands. Even the perennial favourite, "Stairway to Heaven" by Led Zeppelin, failed to make it as Radiohead, The Verve and Manic Street Preachers took over the list.

Madonna's "Ray of Light" was voted in at number 71 and George Michael scraped in at number 99 with "Careless Whisper". But the only two old tracks to make it into the top 20 were Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" and John Lennon's "Imagine"

The top slot was taken by Massive Attack's "Unfinished Symphony", followed by Nirvana, The Verve, Underworld and Radiohead. Oasis scored nine hits in the chart while Radiohead appeared six times and REM three.

A spokesman for Radio 1 said the chart reflected the station's younger listenership. "Our target audience is 15 to 24 and that is shown by the songs they selected," he said. "We were surprised but clearly people view bands like Oasis. The Verve and Radiohead as the new Beaties. They have written classics for a younger generation."

The station also asked celebrities including Cher and Bono to choose their favourite songs. Their choices yielded few surprises apart from Mick Hucknall of Simply Red who modestly chose his own track "Fairground". The band still failed to make it into the chart. ■ William Shakespeare and Sir Winston Churchill are among the nominees chosen by listeners of Radio 4's "Today" programme for British per-

sonality of the millennium. Listeners can cast their final votes for the outstanding Briton today. The result will be an-

According to the National "first class" use counterfeit or Budapest, the smuggler's gate to the West

RASHID, A PAKISTANI student BY ADAM LEBOR in his twenties, was stopped on in Budapest the Hungarian border as he tried to cross into Austria.

where he was planning to go, but the border guards at Gyor, 70 miles from Budapest and about the same distance from Vienna, were sure he was trying to cross illegally.

I don't know why I am being wanted to go to Vienna to see and, increasingly, Britain. my aunt," he told them. But not Between 600 and 800 Kosovo favourite city.

many tourists try to cross Hun-Nobody knows exactly gary's "green" border with Austria at 2am without any papers.

Rashid is one of thousands who are taking their chances on Europe's people-smuggling network, which stretches through Turkey and the former Soviet Union to the favourite

Albanians alone are caught every month on the Austro-Hungarian border.

estimated 38,000 people who ap-

People-smuggling networks. often linked to organised crime, use the Hungarian capital as their collection and distribution point, say officials. Hungary's proximity to the West, and the lack of visa requirements for citizens of countries such as Turkey, Yugoslavia and much of held here. I am a tourist and I destinations – Germany Austria the former Soviet Union, has made Budapest the smugglers'

has made it across into Austria, and the Schengen zone, he or

she can link up with fellowcountrymen who will then pass them along a human chain until they reach their destination. The Hungarian border guards, equipped with obsolete computers and dilapidated vehicles, are being swamped by this human tidal wave

Once an illegal immigrant stretching from the departure eral Kovacs continued: "If the country to the organisers in Budapest and the contacts on EU border country, it should the green border. "The migrants are either

provided with forged docu-

ments or smuggled through." Hungary is now coming under diplomatic pressure to tighten its borders. With Poland and the Czech Republic, also popular transit destinations be-

west wants Hungary to be an give us more help. We have no computers at all on our eastern Istvan Dobo, of the Budapest

Office for Refugees and Migration, said: "When Hungary joins the EU it will have borders with non-member states, so more people will head for Hun-"These are hi-tech networks, early in the next century. Gen- able to travel freely in the EU." said an NCIS detective.



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Threa veto on organ Threat to donation

RELATIVES ARE likely to lose the right to withhold consent for organ donations from family members who have died.

The British Medical Association is considering a big change in policy after its ethics committee decided to support a system of "presumed consent". That approach would allow doctors to remove the organs of patients who died in hospital unless they had chosen to "opt out". At present, individuals must "opt in" by putting their names on the National Donor Register or signing a donor card.

Michael Wilkes, chairman of the BMA ethics committee said evidence from other European countries suggested there would be a "significant increase" in the number of organs available for sion has been taken out of their transplant if the United Kingdom adopted a system of presumed consent. In Belgium, individuals are deemed to have given consent for organ donation unless they "opt out" when they renew their driving licence.

If doctors vote in favour of the move at the BMA's annual meeting in July, it will put pressure on the Government to consider a change in the law.

Dr Wilkes said that with the demand for heart, lung and liver transplants outstripping the availability of organs, patients were dying while waiting He added: "It would be

wrong to assume... that a change in the law to presumed consent would entirely close the gap between the organs needed and those available, but we think it would improve the sitnation to some degree."

The only other options were

buying organs from other countries or using organs from animals, mainly pigs, he said.

Under existing legislation organs can be removed only with the prior consent of the patient, or with the approval of the family after death. Doctors generally approach relatives even if the deceased has signed a donor card, and in about onethird of cases relatives refuse

Dr Wilkes said: "There are situations when relatives overrule the expressed views of the patient, and we think that is unacceptable. There is an argument that, at a very difficult time for relatives, it is better that the decihands. Many relatives, after the initial trauma, are grateful that at least something has been done to save someone else."

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said: "At the moment what we want is to encourage more people to opt in, but we will be looking very carefully at what the BMA is saying."

The BMA initiative was welcomed by Evan Harris, Liberal democrat MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, who introduced a private member's Bill in the last session of Parliament, aiming to increase the availability of organs. "I am delighted that, after initially opposing my proposals, the BMA ethics committee is now supporting a system of presumed consent," he said.

"There is a silent tragedy of hundreds, if not thousands of people dying each year while waiting for a transplant, while healthy organs are discarded."

WEST END PLAYS STAR IN AMERICA'S DRAMATIC TOP 10



The Beauty Queen of Leenane

the major theatrical experiences of the Ninetles.

Playwright: Martin McDonough Director: Garry Hynes

Star: Marie Mulle, Anna Manahan US critic's view: A well-made plot that keeps bending in unexpected ways. Flawlessly performed... it is one of

Not About Nightingales

Director: Trevor Nunn Star: Corin Redgrave and Finbar Lynch US critic's view: Looking back, Tennessee Williams probably found his early, unproduced play crude and lacking in poetry. Both are true. But Trevor Nunn's intense production (which had its American debut at the Alley Theatre in Houston) also shows off the sheer raw power of a dramatist on the verge of



Cabaret

Director: Sam Mendes and Rob Marshall Star: Natasha Richardson, Alan Cumming US critic's view: Cumming gave Grey's Wilkommen a sinister new twist as the MC: Richardson embodied a defiantly deglamourised Sally Bowles; and British director Mendes made the terrific musical even more terrific.



Trainspotting

Director: Harry Gibson Star: Seth Ullian, Sebastian Roché US critic's view: The Scottish slackers of Welsh's novel are even grungier in the stage adaptation than onscreen... Rich dialogue and fine acting turn it into a memorable trip to the lower depths. Including the

Adventures in **Motion Pictures'** Swan Lake

Director: Matthew Bourne Star: Adam Cooper US critic's view: You mean, the swans were once played by women? That is an understandable reaction to Matthew Bourne's acclaimed version of the ballet, with its allmale corps of swans. It is no cross-dressing stunt but a visually luscious and dramatically convincing reinterpretation on an old





British talent triumphs on Broadway

HALF OF the best theatre productions staged in the US this year have been British,

according to Time magazine. In a pleasing irony, while much has been made of the Hollywood invasion of the British theatre - with Nicole Kidman and Kevin Spacey winning awards on the West End stage - Broadway has been sampling and lauding the best of British talent.

Time has published its annual list of the best shows of the year and, of the 10 plays, 5 reporter at Time, said the list

By DAVID LISTER AND KATE WATSON-SMYTH

are British. Top of the list is The Beauty Queen of Leenane. followed by Sam Mendes' production of Cabaret, starring Natasha Richardson. Not About Nightingales - Trevor Nunn's adaptation of the Tennessee Williams play -Trainspotting, and Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake, with male swans, also feature.

reflected the quality of British writing. "A lot of the success of British plays is down to snob value, where people come because they have heard about

a play that has done well in London. But British writers have been more active in the theatre, whereas American writers tend to get wooed away to the movies or television."

Martin McDonagh, who wrote The Beauty Queen of Leenane is, admittedly Irish, as William Tynan, chief theatre Becuty Queen was one of a tril-

ogy of his plays put on, championed and exported by the Royal Court Theatre. Broadway's top 10 contains

other examples of challenging interpretations that have shown British companies at their most inventive. Adventures in Motion Pictures' Swan Lake, starring the former Royal ballet star Adam Cooper and choreographed by AMP's Matthew Bourne, reinvented a classic and are the casts of his play, but The achieved the unthinkable of giving ballet a sell-out West

the States. In Cabaret, America glimpsed the precocious talents of the Donmar Warehouse director Mendes as well as a couple of marvellous performances from Alan Cumming

and Natasha Richardson.

Irvine Welsh's Trainspotting is more than well known. giving a graphic and intense. witty and violent account of drug and dole culture in an Edinburgh far removed from the Royal Mile.

But the piece that must

End run before transferring to have given the Americans more food for thought than any other is Not About Nightingales. This was Tennessee Williams' first play, and never performed until it was put on at the National Theatre.

This early work from one of America's greatest play-wrights was directed by Trevor Numn artistic director of the National Theatre and brought to the stage by Vanessa Redgrave, Natasha Richardson's mother, after long negotiations with the Williams estate.



How Europe is facing the challenge

VIEW FROM FRANCE

BY JOHN LICHFIELD

THE EXCITED children aged 9 and 10 were learning about the euro in the school car park. They were also trying to stand on one another's feet when Madame was not looking.

The Eurobus - touring Normandy for the past three months, spreading the gospel of the single currency - had come to town. Or in this case to the village of Cambes-en-Plaine, just north of Caen.

"What will the euro mean to you?" asked the bright, young woman wearing jeans, and a stud in her nostril.

"It will mean we have less money, because everything will be divided by six," said little Philippe. "No," explained the patient woman from the Treasury. "Your pocket money will seem less but it will buy as many sweets as before."

Something similar could be

consequences seem so far

away, with the franc remaining

in circulation for another three

new year launch of the single

According to recent polls,

almost 70 per cent of French

people regard the euro posi-

tively. But the government and

business representatives who

have manned the Eurobus

through Calvados since Sep-

tember report a surprisingly

thetic enthusiasm.

Partly because the everyday

said of France as a whole.

Florian, aged nine, piped up: "The euro will mean we are stronger because we will be 11 countries working together, years, France will greet the instead of one. It will mean that we don't have to pay to currency with a wave of apachange our money when we go abroad."

The bright, young woman beamed. Florian's Papa, it turned out, is a bank manager.

Overall, faced with the historic prospect of the abolition of the franc, the class displayed remarkable knowledge and blithe indifference. low level of interest.



Shoppers leaving a supermarket in Vitry, south of Paris, where prices are given in euros

"Some of the older people

chamber of commerce.

Jacques Brinon

in Frankfurt, not very much.

have been asked to display

prices in both currencies. Cus-

tomers can pay in euros, by

cheque or banker's card, but

ers can, if they wish, pay staff

The euro is, however, trans-

people. The state Loto organ-

ised two special jackpot draws,

just before and just after

Christmas. In each, the first

prize was seven million euros

(roughly £5m) so creating the

in euros from next month.

All restaurants and shops

are making a bit of a drama out of it. They complain that they still think in old francs (abolished in 1960)," reported Claire Godillon, director of judicial affairs for the Caen "Otherwise, people don't seem to care much either way. There are a few who are

strongly in favour, a few who appears to have gone by the are violently against. The great majority are mildly curiboard, for now. ous and accept it's going to happen, whatever they think." Although France voted only

narrowly for the Maastricht

Treaty for shadowing the euro.

the anti-single currency camp, on both the left and right, has failed in recent efforts to stir up indignation or concern. With interest rates and inflation at historic lows, the economy reasonably strong and the Bourse (stock market) at ready to accept them. Employrecord highs, it's difficult to make a short-term, economic case against the euro. The political, sentimental case

What will change from next month? Apart from the invisible but vital fact that control of France's currency will pass to the European Central Bank first euro-millionaires.

tryfolk of hard-earned savings. Smooth-talking "bankers" convince victims to hand over escudos they say are worthless, offering to swap them for euros. Earlier this month, in the latest of several incidents, two men persuaded an 82year-old to part with 190,000

ploiting the launch of the euro

Cash in hand, the swindlers. disappeared. It's a modern twist on an old scam in which dodgy "priests" urged villagers to hand over jewels and silverware to be "blessed" by a visiting cardinal.

The fraud reflects how Por-

SOME PORTUGUESE are ex- By ELIZABETH NASH

VIEW FROM PORTUGAL

on 1 January to swindle countugal's preparation for the euro is focused on banks and big companies rather than the average Joao. "The euro is clearly defined for banks, securities and big companies, but not for small companies or the consumer," says Manuel Fidalgo of the Portuguese consumers' association, DeCo. "Our voice has not been represented, and we feel the crucial task of winning over public

opinion has been neglected." The Bank of Portugal frowns on traders' attempts to mark prices in both escudos and euros.

But the Portuguese, tradi-

tionally open to the wider world, are likely to cope well. The country has 10 million tourists a year, and even small shops and cafés are at home juggling currencies and languages. "Our savings banks already work in multi-currencies," says Nuno Jonet, spokesman at the Bank of Por-

tugal. "We are flexible." DeCo agrees. "We Portuguese are an easy-going nation, and we think we'll get used to the euro like we get used to everything," Mr Fidalgo says. "But consumers must be alert, and demand clear, precise and honest information, to protect us from sneaky hidden charges and fraudulent tricksters."

VIEW FROM IRELAND

IN IRELAND you know an issue has reached the man in the street when Pat Kenny starts to become exercised by it. Last week Mr Kenny, the host of a popular radio talk show, decided it was time to "cut through the confusion" of only if the establishment is the single currency, a sure sign that the nation is waking up to the imminent reality of life in euroland.

Big business, the farmers forming the lives of at least two and the political classes, who run the Celtic Tiger, have long embraced it. But the absence of any of the political hysteria that has characterised the debate in Britain has helped to foster an overwhelming public indifference. The most recent

BY KATHERINE BUTLER

survey showed the levels of ignorance towards the single currency were greater in Ireland than in any of the other participating countries.

Sixty per cent had no idea what the new currency was called and one in three could not say when it would be launched. That looks likely to change. The big supermarket chains, with the British-owned Tesco in the lead, will soon start to issue receipts in both

Irish pounds and euros. It is unlikely that waking up to the euro will generate a late outbreak of nostalgia for the punt. Currency has never

been a symbol of national identity in Ireland. Yet the most dynamic economy in the European Union will find its strong pro-Europe credentials put to the test once it has ceded monetary independence.

Low interest rates are just what the doctor ordered for the sluggish economies of the Continent but in booming Ireland, still growing at about 8 per cent a year, lower interest rates could fuel inflation, particularly in house prices and wages. Sterling volatility is the other worry, given that about 30 per cent of sales go to the UK. If sterling devalues against the euro, tens of thous-



Sceptics converted in first wave of nations out of the euro simply follow-THE EURO has clear public BY JOHN CURTICE ing their public opinion or support in most of the 11 countries taking part in the first 83 per cent in favour and 8 per have they created it? stage. Indeed, public opinion cent opposed. At the bottom In countries where the gov-

agenda in the early Nineties.

opinion survey, the Euro- the attraction of a stronger curin its favour.

Over the past five years the Eurobarometer has regularly found just over half of people in the European Union to be in favour, with just under last survey, in the spring, as the euro received the go-ahead, it found 60 per cent in favour and 28 per cent opposed. Opinion in the 11 initial member countries was even more supportive, with 66 per cent in favour

and 23 per cent against. At the top of the euro popularity stakes is Italy, with

has favoured the euro since the among those countries joining idea came on to the public on Friday is Germany, where 51 per cent are in favour and Meanwhile, the most re- 36 per cent are opposed. What cent official European Union for the Italians appears to be mans the fear of a weaker one. Indeed, this time last year more people in Germany were opposed to the introduction of the euro than were in favour.

In contrast, of the four countwo in five opposed. But in its tries not joining the euro at this stage, only in Greece does a majority of the public actually wish to do so. Greece was deemed unable to meet the Maastricht criteria. In Sweden, Denmark and Britain, only about a third were in favour and a half or more opposed.

governments who have opted

But are those European

ernment wished to join the euro, the rise in support averaged 10 points. In none of the three countries where the goverament did not wish to join was it greater than five points. ly to be influenced by the euro moving from idea to fact where their government was wel-

coming this. Furthermore, the three countries that opted out are not those with the three most Eurosceptical publics. Only in Sweden is public opposition to the euro matched by the public's doubts about the wisdom of being in Europe at all.

John Curtice is deputy director of the ESRC Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends.

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There's a Great Deal going on

Shopping: The sales are on with a vengeance but economic gloom may deter many

Elbows out, now is the time to buy

'PERS GALVED the upper BY DIANE COYLE hand in their now-traditional seasonal battle with highstreet stores as the new year sales got under way yesterday. Record numbers flocked to shopping centres as retailers offered reductions of up to 80

per cent. In recent years shops have had to cut their prices more and more sharply every January to tempt shoppers. Consumers have learnt that prices rise in December and bargains arrive after Christmas. In January 1998 the drop in

e price of clothing and antwear was the biggest since the war, at 6.6 per cent. The fall in the price of big-ticket household goods such as fridges and furniture was 3.9 per cent. the biggest since records began in 1956.

The scale of price cuts in clothes and consumer electronics has grown almost every year since the late Eighties, and retail analysts have noted the increasing success of consumers' guerrilla tactics. Last year, spending boomed in January, encouraged by the big

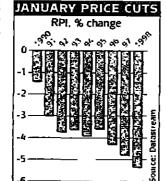
However, this year there were fears that retailers may have less surplus stock and therefore the bargains might not be as great. Last year overoptimism about Christmas shopping left them with huge amounts of unsold goods. But the early signs yesterday were

that bargains were plentiful. Not only have retailers cut back on their stocks this year. they have also been increasing prices every December and February to make up, at least partly, for the price cuts in January. Lakeside shopping centre in Essex, one of the biggest in the UK with 320 outlets, saw more customers than any preAND SARAH WILSON

vious Sunday when it opened after Christmas

Richard Belt, the general manager, said: "The level of discounting is higher than ever, 50 per cent is the average and some shops are offering between 70 and 80 per cent off."

He added: "This has been one of the worst retail years in memory. The weather has been terrible and has left retailers with large stocks to clear before bringing in their spring merchandise.



Ten people . fainted in Next. Lakeside by luncl. me yesterday - one probably the wife of the customer who spent £1,000 in the men's department. The week's target for Next is £1m and it was expected that about £350.000 was taken in the first day of the sale.

Marks & Spencer, which had suffered a steep decline in pre-Christmas spending, is also offering discounts in all departments.

Going Places, the travel chain, said it was offering "huge" discounts for early summer holiday bookings through its 700 high-street shops. Bookings so far were 4

At the Meadowhall outside Sheffield, eager shoppers were queuing in the rain from 5am esterday. The scene was similar at the MetroCentre in Gateshead, according to the manager, John Bell. There were record numbers on Sunday and he was expecting at

least 130,000 vesterday.

He added: "Last week's figures were pretty disappointing at the start of the week, but I think that is because the public are no longer fooled by the whole Christmas thing. They hold on to their money or give gift vouchers so that they can

take advantage of the sales." Ann Grain, speaking for the British Retail Consortium, said: "We hope this December follows last year's pattern. Last year it was very slow until the 21st and then completely turned around."

But the battle is not going all the consumers' way. Ms Grain admitted: "People might be a bit disappointed because retailers had their fingers burnt last year." There would be bargains, she said, but the sales were unlikely to last as long.

Consumer confidence has :lso been dented by the "er economic outlook. The. oo. could hold back the scale of the nation's annual bargain-hunting spree.

Barclays Bank is predicting a steady housing market in 1999. The bank's forecast, issued yesterday, included mortgage rates falling to 6 per cent from the present 7.5 per cent and a boom in capped-rate mortgages as borrowers tried to lock into lower rates for the long term. House prices would continue to rise at just above the rate of retail inflation.

> Leading article, Review, page 3



'Fragrance fatigue' blamed for drop in scent market

SALES OF perfume are declin- BY ANDREW MULLINS ing, with the UK market shrinking by £6m in the past two years, according to analysts. Scent sales are also stagnating across continental Europe, except in France.

Even for a special occasion such as Christmas, perfume is not as glamourous as it once was. Simon Horne of the Body Shop said: "In the Nineties people are looking to things like aromatherapy, to more natural fragrances and ways of living their lives, and a reflection

of that is a simpler perfume." If simpler is a synonym for cheaper, tests by Which? magazine seem to support this idea.

to detect price differences, and some said that cheaper scents smelt more expensive than

some expensive perfumes. Industry insiders believe the increasing sophistication of consumers may also be leading to fragrance fatigue.

In the past decade, 813 perfumes have been launched, most concocted, bottled and marketed at a cost to the manufacturer of less than £10. Predictably this deluge of

new products has left some losers. Yardley collapsed in August with debts of £120m and other big manufacturers are In blindfold trials, sniffers failed also cutting back.

Retailers are combating the changing climate in differing ways. Sales volume is being maintained at Superdrug, with discounts of up to 30 per cent on top brands, while supermarkets such as Asda are com-

peting with discounts of up to 75 per cent. Prestige outlets such as Selfridges, on Oxford Street in London, are using other methods. Stephanie Thomas, the store's retail manager said: "We sell gift sets, or coffret sets as they are called, and that is probably why we have pulled through. Customers are look-

ing for a higher grade of service

from us and added value is

Irvine warning over Pinochet

THE LORD Chancellor said yesterday that the legal system was being brought into disrepute by events in the extradition case against General Augusto Pinochet.

Lord Irvine of Lairg said new procedures had to be adopted to ensure there was no repeat of the setting aside of the law lords' original ruling that the ex-Chilean dictator was not immune, as former head of state, from proceedings.

A second panel of law lords ruled that the case would have to be reheard after it emerged that a member of the original panel, Lord Hoffmann, had inks to Amnesty International, which had been campaigning for the extradition to Spain of General Pinochet.

"It is of course unprecedented. It is in the highest degree unfortunate because it does have a tendency to bring the legal system into disre-Lord Irvine told BBC Radio 4's Today pro-

"This was, of course, litiga-

tion where the eyes of the world were, and are, upon us. But what is necessary to do is not to cry over spilt milk but to see that procedures are put in place to ensure that this does

not happen again." In future, Lord Irvine said, when a panel of law lords was assembled to hear an appeal, they should meet beforehand to ensure that none of them had a connection that could give rise to the appearance of a conflict

Spain is seeking the extradition of the 83-year-old former dictator to stand trial on charges of murder and torture carried out under his regime.

He was arrested in October by officers from Scotland Yard while recuperating from back surgery at a private hospital in London. At a subsequent court hearing, he was remanded on bail and is currently living in a rented house on the exclusive Wentworth Estate at Virginia

IN BRIEF

Bill to punish football racists

FOOTBALL HOOLIGANS face having to surrender their passports and being banned from grounds for up to 10 years under a private member's Bill proposed by Simon Burns, Tory MP for Chelmsford West. The Football Spectators' Offences Bill, which will outlaw racist or indecent chanting at matches. has government backing.

Scots oppose university tuition fees ALMOST TWO-THIRDS of Scots oppose the introduction of

tuition fees for university students, according to an opinion poll released yesterday. The poll, carried out by System Three for the public service union Unison, indicates 65 per cent of those questioned were against the levying of fees.

Camelot plans new lottery games

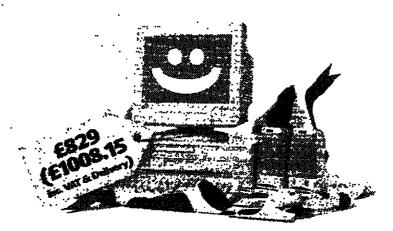
CAMELOT, ORGANISER of the National Lottery, said yesterday it was looking at new games including a fivenumber contest. A spokeswoman said lottery chiefs were considering a number of games to increase the company's profits and add to funds given to good causes.

Facelift for Yeats resting place

DRUMCLIFFE GRAVEYARD, resting place of the poet W B Yeats, and its adjoining church in Co Sligo, Ireland, are to have IR£600,000 (£550,500) spent on facilities, including a visitors' centre, for the 80,000 tourists a year to the writer's grave.

Squirrels at risk from nut-only diet

NUTS LEFT out for red squirrels could give them brittle bone disease, experts said yesterday. People leaving food out for squirrels this winter are advised to provide a mixed diet.



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Monitors ready to abandon Kosovo

FEARS ARE growing that deep-ening conflict in the Serbian province of Kosovo will force the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe to withdraw, even before its mission there has been properly es-

The OSCE chairman, the Polish Foreign Minister, Bronislaw Geremek, said a "spiral of violence" was threatening any hope of peaceful solution. "If the bloodshed and violence escalate, the OSCE would have to reconsider the forms of its activities in Kosovo," he said.

The province was quiet for the first time yesterday after a truce brokered by the unarmed OSCE verifiers ended four days of fighting between ethnic Albanian guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and the Yugoslav security forces.

was drawn up on Sunday, as the probably not be able to convene

Balkans Correspondent

fighting continued, but OSCE officials said concerns remained that the unarmed monmiddle of a full-scale civil war. change the underlying situation," one official said, adding that the option of pulling out

was being keptunder review. A Western diplomat said Mr Geremek was "quite pessimistic" about the Kosovo mission's chances of success and wanted to highlight the option of withdrawal. The OSCE's chairman has the authority and mandate unilaterally to order a withdrawal of all personnel from Serbia if the situ-

ation deteriorates. The 54-nation council of Mr Geremek's statement OSCE member-states would

in time to decide, although there would be consultations among the six-nation Contact Group of Britain, the US, Rus-

sia, France, Germany and Italy. Under the terms of a deal itors will soon be trapped in the agreed in October by the US envoy Richard Holbrooke and "A local ceasefire doesn't President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia, 2,000 OSCE observers are allowed to work in the province. However, fewer than 700 are in place.

The unarmed personnel are there to verify that both sides are keeping to the terms of UN resolutions which demand that both sides pull back their forces and observe a ceasefire.

The absence of a lasting political settlement for Kosovo has seen the OSCE mission being drawn into an increasingly active role. The head of the mission, the ambassador William Walker, spent most of Christmas Day shuttling

between the two sides to try to end hostilities. At one point he called the mission "the last, best hope for peace in Kosovo". At the height of the battle up

to a hundred Yugoslav tanks and armoured vehicles were in action against KLA positions. Artillery, mortar and machinegun fire sounded for hours across the snowy fields as columns of ethnic Albanian refugees fled

Responsibility for the OSCE mission falls to the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Knut Vollebak, in the new year, when Norway assumes the organisation's rotating chairmanship.

He said: "The OSCE as an organisation and me personally will be judged by what we accomplish in Kosovo, "It could well be a success, but also a



President Bill Clinton speaking at the White House yesterday on preparations for the millennium bug

Censure likely for Clinton

MOMENTUM IS building for a BY ANDREW MARSHALL vote of censure against President Bill Clinton, rather than his removal from office. But it will still involve a trial in the Senate on two articles of Moyniban, a veteran Democrat impeachment, which could take perhaps two months.

"I think we have to start the process. The Constitution lays out a procedure by which we ought to begin, and I think the Senate will follow that," said Tom Daschle, the leading Senate Democrat. "I think the votes aren't there for impeachment," he added. "We ought to vote on these articles of impeachment, and that is the appropriate time to consider a censure," said Republican

Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. After the House of Representatives voted to impeach the President, the decision passed to the Senate, and a number of eminent senators are now preparing the ground acceptable both to the White their cases. But there are House and its Republican unlikely to be any witnesses.

in Washington

enemies. Leading the initiative for censure is Senator Pat from New York who will retire at the next election.

Mr Moynihan is working with Republicans, including Senate Majority leader Trent Lott, to draft a censure motion. It is unlikely to include a fine, one element that had been suggested. The censure debate would probably come after a Senate trial, which, it is presumed, would not result in a vote against the President.

The timing of the Senate trial is still in question. Leading members of both parties have said that they want the trial to open soon after the Senate reconvenes on 6 January. It is expected to last for at least a couple of months. allowing both the "prosecu-

Israel set for May poll

opposition MPs have tentatively agreed that a general election will take place on 17 May next

ISRAELI COALITION and mid-June, which [the] Likud [party] proposed ... we com-promised on May 17," said Elli Goldschmidt, Labour Party whip in parliament. The date must be approved by parlia-

interest

Half 366-2 30 C

year, an opposition Labour Party MP said vesterday. "It's a compromise between ment, which is due to convene April 27 proposed by us, and today. (Reuters) Last winter, we saved thousands of elderly people from electric shock TEL NO. 0170 384007 Winter can bring real hardship to the elderly. Many face the appalling choice between eating and staying warm. But you can spare someone the dilemma by making a donation Rukba helps thousands of elderly people meet the cost of winter heating by providing them with a small additional income. Just £10, for example, could help somebody stay Please call 0345 58 56 80 (local call rate) or return the coupon below. Thank you. wish to give £10 20 I enclose a cheque made payable to Rukba I would like to give by Mastercard/Visa/CAF - please charge the

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We would also like to encourage you to register your details by post, just fill in the cord in the box. To give you more time, we have extended the return date for registrations for our Pay as you Talk Christmas promotion. So if you have used your phone by December 31st 1998 and we receive your card by January 14th 1999, you will still qualify for the normal £2.50 worth of Calling Credit and the £10 special Christmas offer! Finally we would like to welcome you to the network, and we hope you enjoy using your phone in the New Year.



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Helping elderly people

المكذا من الأعل

Israel protects concentration camp boss

AN EXTRADITION request by BY ADAM LEBOR Polish authorities for an alleged Central Europe Correspondent former commander of a Stalinist-era detention camp now living in Tel Aviv has been

rejected by Israel

ice. He is charged with crimes commander of the Swietochlowice camp where more than 3,000 prisoners, mainly Germans, but also including several

A reply sent to the Polish Justice Ministry from Israeli authorities said that Israel Salomon Morel is wanted would not extradite Mr Morel. by the prosecutor's office in the Officials said the crimes with southern Polish city of Katow- which he is charged are not perceived in Israel as genocide, against humanity while he was and so are subject to the statute of limitations, the Polish news agency PAP reported.

The demand by Polish authorities for Mr Morel's extranations, were held during 1945. month to bring back former Army's liberation of southern

military prosecutor in Warsaw recently issued an arrest warrant for Helena Brus, formerly Wolinska, now married to an

Oxford don. During the 1950s Ms Wolinska worked as a military prosecutor in Warsaw, issuing arrest warrants. Many of those detained under her orders were later hanged. Both Mr Morel

and Mrs Brus are Jewish. Swietochlowice was set up by the Soviet NKVD - foreruncitizens of allied and neutral dition is the second attempt this ner of the KGB - after the Red

Poland. The camp was later killings of inmates. "I knew die although nobody will shoot eyes, I was sleeping next to a handed over to the Polish secret Morel in the camp. He was a you, because ammunition is lady from Switzerland. I slept service, the notorious UB.

Stalin's policy was to put Jews in charge of camps. Their experiences during the Nazi Holocaust would mean that Germans and Poles held there could expect little mercy. More than half of the 3,000 prisoners at Swietochlowice were murdered or died there, according to PAP.

Dorota Boriczek, a camp survivor, remembers Salomon Morel as a barbaric and cruel man who, with his colleagues. was responsible for many

very brutal man. He was young then. He would come in at night. We could hear the cries of the men then. They would

beat them and throw the bodies out of the window," Mrs Boriczek, now 68 and living in Ludswigberg, Germany, told The Independent. "I was taken there when I was 14, with my mother. I still too expensive'."

Conditions in the camp were horrific, said Mrs Boriczek, who has begun a legal process in Katowice to try to find out why she was sent to the camp. "There was nothing to eat, a

hunger that you cannot imagine. We were lucky to have a piece of bread once a day, nothing else, and water. Both my don't know why we were there mother and I had typhus. We and I still want to know. They were separated and I didn't told us when we arrived, You know she was alive. I had a high are here, and you are here to fever and when I opened my prisonment at Swietochlowice,

with her under one blanket. I was happy that she was dead, because that meant I could

have her blanket." Mr Morel, born in 1919, lost much of his family in the Holocaust before joining the partisans, in his case a Jewish military unit, according to John Sack, the American author of An Eye for An Eye: The Untold Story of Jewish Revenge

Against Germans in 1945. In 1995, 50 years after her imthe Katowice prosecutor's office. She said she felt more pity than hatred.

"I hated him all my life and then when I saw him I saw an old, fat man. I could see he was ill. I would even have given him my hand. I asked him why he did these crimes. He told me I was lying and everybody loved

Mr Morel refused to speak to The Independent. A man in Tel Aviv who identified himself as Mr Morel's son said his father did not talk to journalists.

Seasonal ordeal by fire and ice

STREET LIFE

SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

ON BOXING Day, the hard men of my native Yorkshire show their mettle by covering themselves in lard and swimming in the North Sea off Scarborough. It has always been my ambition to join these "Sons of Neptune". But for now, I am doing my temperature training with the weaklings of Russia.

Over Christmas, I went from minus 12 degrees of frost to plus 90 Celsius - and all without leaving the environs of Samotechny Lane.

To earn the heat, I first chilled out. Wearing three jumpers and a fur coat, I went to watch the men making ice sculptures for new year on Pushkin Square. The neon temperature gauge above the square stood at minus 12 and the wind cut like a knife.

"Perfect weather," said the brigade leader, Viktor Pavlovich Chernyshov or "Palich" to his workers. Icicles stuck to his beard but he warmer weather, his workers glowed from his exertions and looked as hale as Father carving swans and bears to Christmas.

The men were using chain saws to make surprisingly delicate sculptures from blocks of ice brought up from Pioneers' working on figures from Russian fairy tales.

"And that's Tsar Boris Godunov, isn't it?" I asked. "Don't be daft," said Palich. "That's Pushkin.

Of course. Not only were we at the lower end of Pushkin Square, opposite the famous statue of the 19th-century poet, but also 1999 will be a year of celebrations marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of the "Russian Shakespeare". Mayor Yuri Luzhkov and various private sponsors were paying for the ice park to help

to launch those celebrations. "What will happen if there is a sudden thaw?" I asked. "And what if war breaks out?" grinned Palich. "Don't you worry, I have my secrets for keeping the temperature

Indeed he does, for Palich runs a firm that makes ice sculptures all year round. In toil inside a giant refrigerator, decorate banqueting tables in posh hotels.

Palich continued to radiate his own inner heat but I was going blue, standing there Pond. A row of completed talking to him. Luckily. my Doric columns sparkled at the next appointment was with entrance to their impromptu Irina at the banya or Russian ice park. Inside, they were steam bath.

"Come in quick, shut the door, don't let the heat out," she said, as I entered the wooden cabin at the Astrakhansky baths, where bath attendant Boris had worked up an air temperature of 90C by throwing water on to hot coals. In minutes, I was sweating with Irina, a doctor who practises alternative medicine, and her

heat-worshipping friends. "Whip me, whip me," cried a naked man in the corner and Irina obliged by lashing his back with birch fronds.

This is not what you might think it is. All thoughts of sex disappear at just 10 degrees below boiling point and Russians go in mixed groups to the banya for the sake of their health, not for orgies.

In a cold country that barely sees the sun for six months of the year, the banya gives essential warmth to people who cannot afford to fly off to Florida. Even the banya has become something of a luxury since the economic crisis and beggars stand outside the bath house, hoping for kopecks from the relatively rich Russians going in with their towels and birch branches.

It is possible to endure the



A sculptor chiseling figures for a traditional ice sculpture festival in Moscow

drier. "There's nothing quite like the banya in nature," said extreme heat for about five Irina. "You can't compare it to ' minutes. The temperature in the jungle or the desert. abandon into the icy swim-

It's **Time**

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for clear explanations in plain English - not jargor

it's **Time**

It's **Time**

but tolerable because the air is be like inside the crater of a the same. You come out tinvolcano." You get so hot that you are

dying for cold. You plunge with have eaten a mint. a Finnish sauma is even higher Perhaps this is what it would ming pool. Heat and cold feel people with weak hearts, of es and, afterwards, it finds its

course," said Irina, "but it's own natural balance again." gling. Your whole body feels the brilliant for your blood circuway your mouth does when you lation. That's the point of the extremes of temperature. Your "It is not recommended for body is cleansed of all stress-

Ivan Sekretarev/AP

in Scarborough Bay next Boxing Day. Jumping in the North

Sea. Piece of cake HELEN WOMACK

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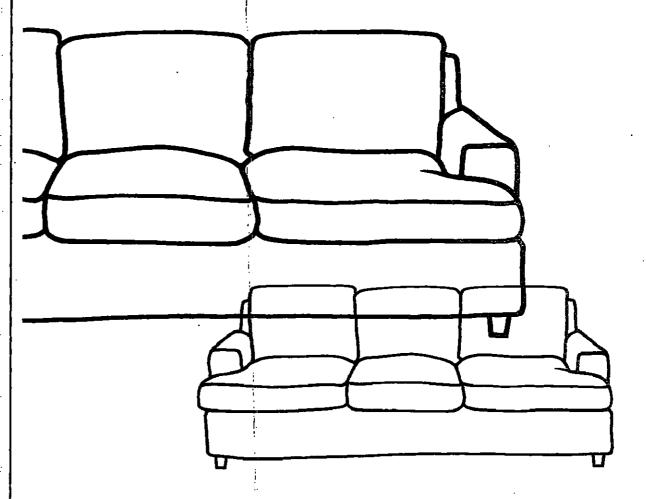
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JANUARY

1 Cricket One Day England v Bradman XI, Bowral,

அ Football FA Cup 3rd round Cricket Fifth Test Match, England v Australia. Sydney (to 6) Darts Embassy World Professional, Surrey (to 10) Sailing World Championships, Melbourne (to 19) Athletics International cross country meeting,

4 Bobsleigh British C hampionships, Austria (to 9) 5 Skiling Alpine World Cup Kranjska Gora, Slovenia

7 Skling Alpine World Cup Schladming, Austria (to 9)

8 Cricket One Day England v Queensland, Brisbane Rugby Union European Cup semi-final

Cricket One Day England v Australia, Brisbane Basketball National Cup Final, Sheffield Arena Skiling Alpine World Cup Flachau, Austria Rugby Union European Cup semi-final 11 Cricket One Day England v Sri Lanka, Brisbane

12 Skiling Alpine World Cup Adelboden, Switzer-14 Golf Alfred Dunhill, PGA, Joannesborg, South Africa (to 17)

Bobsielgh World Cup and European Championships, Germany (to 17) 15 Cricket One Day England v Australia, Melbourne Boxing (heavyweight non-title fight) Mike Tyson v Francois Botha (SA), Las Vegas

ice Hockey VIC Christmas Cup Final1st leg Racing Victor Chandler Handicap Chase, Ascot Skiing Alpine World Cup Wengen, Switzerland

Toricket One Day England v Australia, Sydney Rallying Monte Carlo Rally (to 20) American Football AFC and NFC Championship games (Superbowl Semi-finals) Ice Hockey VIC Christmas Cup Final 2nd leg 18 Tennis Australian Open (to 31) 19 Cricket One Day England v Srl Lanka,

Melbourne 21 Golf South African Open, Cape Province (to 24) 22 Speed Skating European Short Track Championships, Oberstdorf, Germany (to 24)

29 Skiling Alpine World Cup Kitzbühel, Austria (to 24)

Football FA Cup 4th round Cricket One Day England v Sri Lanka, Adelaide Boxing (heavyweight non-title light) George Foreman v Larry Holmes, Houston Figure Skatting European Championships, Prague (to 31)

Athletics international cross country meeting, 26 Cricket One Day England v Australia, Adelaide Skiling Freestyle World Cup Fortress Mountain

Canada 27 Football Worthington Cup semi-final 1 28 Golf Heineken Classic, Perth, Australia 29 Cricket One Day England v Sri Lanka, Perth Swimming British Grand Prix, Swansea (to 31) Rugby Union European Cup Final (1st leg) Rugby League Silk Cup Challenge Cup Rugby League S 30 3rd round (to 31)

Cyclo Cross World Championship, Slovakla Racing Great Yorkshire Handicap Chase, Doncast Athletics AAA Senior Indoor Championships American Football Superbowl XXXII, American Football Superborn And Pro Player Stadium, Miami, Florida

FEBRUARY

1 Squash Manchester Business Pages National Championships

3 Cricket One Day England v Sri Lanka, Sydney 4 Golf European Tour event (tba), Kuala Lumpur 5 Cricket One Day England v Australia, Sydney

Badminton London Victoria English National Championships (to 7) Hockey Indoor finals, Crystal Palace Rugby Union Five Nations Scotland v Wales; ireland v France

10 Football Friendly England v France Cricket One Day First Final, Sydney 11 Golf Dubai Desert Classic 12 Cricket One Day Second Final, Melbourne

Rallying Swedish Rally, Karlstad (to 14) Curling English Championships, Perth (to 14) إ എ Football FA Cup 5th round Rugby League Silk Cup Challenge Cup

4th round (to 14) Boxing (WBC welterweight title fight) Oscar De La Hova (holder) v ike Quartev. Las Vegas Swimming FINA World Cup, Glasgow (to 14) Racing Tote Gold Trophy Handicap Hurdle, Newbury

Cricket One Day Third Final, Melbourne
Athletics Indoor International meeting, NIA. Birminaham

17 Football Worthington Cup Semi-Final second

Golf Catar Masters, Doha (to 20) 19 Swimming British Grand Prix, Leeds (to 21) 20 Badminton World Grand Prix Finals, Indonesia Rugby Union Five Nations England v Scotland;

Wales v Ireland Skiling Alpine World Cup Garmisch Partenk, Ger-

many (to 21) Pigure Skating Four Continents Championships, Halifax, Canada (to 28) Ice Hockey Challenge Cup 1st semi-final 22 Tennis Men's Guardian Direct Cup, Battersea Park (to 27)

25 Skiing Freestyle World Cup Finals La Plagne, France (to 27) 26 Rallying Śafari Rally, Nairobi (to 28) എട്ടെ Rugby League Silk Cup Challenge Cup ∠ ✓ 5th round (to 28) Basketball Dairylea Dunkers Ali Star Game, New-

16 Football Worthington Cup semi-final 2

17 Racing Queen Mother Champion Chase,

Football European Champions' League quarter-

Squash British Open, NEC Arena Birmingham (to 28)

Football European Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final

20 Rugby Union Five Nations Scotland v Ireland; England v France. Wales v Italy

Skating World Figure Skating Championships,

21 Football Worthington Cup Final Motor Racing Formula One Chinese Grand Football Worthington Cup Final

25 Golf Madeira Open Island, Santo de Sierra (to 28)

Racing Champion Hurdle, Cheltenham

18 Golf Moroccan Open, Agadir (to 21)

19 Speed Skating World Short Track

Racing Cheftenham Gold Cup

Championships, Sofia (to 21)

ice Hockey Challenge Cup Final

castle Arena

MARCH

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Helsinki (to 28)

final second leg

1 Snooker Thailand Masters, Bangkok (to 7) 2 Football Uefa Cup quarter-final first leg 3 Football European Champions' League quarterfinal first lea

4 Football European Cup-Winners' Cup quarterfinal first leg Golf Portuguese Algarve Open (to 7)

Athletics World Indoor Championships, Japan (to 8) 5 Rugby League Super League season begins Athletics World Indoor Championships, Maebashi, Japan (to 7) Speed Skating World Short Track Team Champs, Missouri, US (to 7)

Football FA Cup 6th round

Rugby Union Five Nations France v Wales; Ireland v England. Scotland v Italy Gymnastics Rhythmic Gymnastics British Championships, Dewsbury (to 7)

Boxing (WBO featherweight title fight) Naseem Harned (holder) v tba. Manchester Skiling Alpine World Cup Kvittjell, Norway (to 7) Motor Racing Formula One Australian Grand

// Prix, Melbourne ice Hockey Challenge Cup 2nd semi-final 8 Snooker China International (to 14) Tennis Newsweek Champions Cup, Indian Wells,

California (to 14) 9 Table Tennis English Open, Potters, Hopton-on-Sea Badminton Yonex All England Open Championships, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham (to 14) 10 Skiling Alpine World Cup Final, Sierra Nevada, Spain (to 14)

Rugby League Sik Cup Challenge Cup
Ouarter-finals (to 14) Boxing (world heavyweight title unification match) Lennox Lewis (WBC Champion) V Evander Holyfield (WBA/IBF Champion), New York Athletics English National Cross Country Championships. Newark

Basketball uni-ball trophy final, NEC Arena Racing Imperial Cup Handicap Hurdle, Sandown 15 Tennis Lipton Championships, Florida (to 28)

Proofball Euro 2000 qualifiers Macedonia v Rep of Ireland; Scotland v Bosnia Herzegovina; Northern Ireland v Germany Fencing British Sabre Championships Rugby League Silk Cup Challenge Cup semi-finals **Athletics IAAF World Cross Country** Championships, Belfast (to 28) ice Hockey British National League semi-finals, Hull Racing Lincoln Handicap, Doncaste Proofball FA Women's Premier League Cup Rallying Portuguese Rally, Oporto (to 31) Ice Hockey British National League Final, Hull

Motorcycling Superbikes Rt. South Africa

Wales; England International tha

31 Football Euro 2000 qualifiers Scotland v Czech

Republic: Moldova v Northern Ireland; Switzerland v

Rugby Union European Cup Final (2nd leg)

Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lankan captain, holds aloft the Cricket World Cup after his team defeated Australia in the 1996 final in Lahore

CRICKET WORLD CUP Group A: Sri Lanka, India, South Africa, England, Zimbabwe,

BRITAIN PLAYS HO

Group B: Australia, West Indies, Pakistan, New Zealand

Bangiadesh, Scotland Top three in each group quality for Super Stx stage

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Fri 28 May

Sat 29 May

Sun 30 May

Mon 31 May

Fri 4 June

Sat 5 June

Sun 6 June

Tues 8 June

Wed 9 June

Fri til June

Sat 12 June

Wed 16 June

Thurs 17 June

Sun 20 June

Group matches

England v Sri Lanka Hov India v South Africa Taunto Zimbabwe v Kenya Worcestr Australia v Scotland Bristl West Indies v Pakistan Chelmsfoil New Zealand v Bangladesh Canterbuy :* England v Kenya Northamoto Sri Lanka v South Africa India v Zimbabwe Cardi Australia v New Zealand Thurs 20 May Chester-le-Stret Pakistan v Scotland West Indies v Bangladesh England v South Africa Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka Britol Kenya v India Australia v Pakistan Southamon West Indies v New Zealand Scotland v Bangladesh Trent Brige England v Zimbabwe Sri Lanka v India South Africa v Kenya Leicste Thurs 27 May West Indies v Scotland Australia v Bangladesh Chester-le-Seet New Zealand v Pakistan Edgbaton. England v India Chelge ord Zimbabwe v South Africa

Super Six

Sri Lanka v Kenya

West Indies v Australia

Scotland v New Zealand

Pakistan v Bangladesh

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event, Silverstone (to 18)

Semi-final First semi-final Second semi-final

Grp A 1st v Grp B 2nd

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Final

APRIL

1 Ice Skating World Challenge Cup Synchronized Skating, Goteberg, Sweden (to 4)

2 Tennis The Davis Cup World Group GB v USA

NEC, Birmingham (to 4)

Rowing The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race
Rugby Union South Towns semi-finals Rugby Union Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-finals,

Football Fifa World Youth Championship (U20), Nigeria (to 24)

Ice Hockey Sekonda Superleague Play-Off semifinals, Manchester EN Arena Curfing World Championships, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada (to 11)

Football AXA FA Women's Cup semi-finals Motor racing British Touring Car Champpionship event Donington Park (to 5) Ice Hockey Sekonda Superleague Play-Off Final, Manchester EN Arena Baseball Major League season starts

Snooker British Open, Plymouth (to 11) 5 Racing Irish Grand National Handicap Chase, Fairyhouse

6 Football Uefa Cup semi-final first leg

7 Football European Champions' League semi-final Cricket Sharjah Tournament (to 16)

8 Football European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final Golf Masters Tournament Augusta National, Georgia (to 11) Racing Grand National Handicap Chase,

Football Tennents Scottish Cup semi-finals Rugby Union Five Nations Scotland v France Rugby Union Ireland v Italy Basketball Budweiser Championships Play-Off (first leg)

Footbell FA Cup semi-finals

Motor Racing Formula One Brazilian Grand Prix, São Paulo Rugby Union Five Nations Wales v England

14 Equestrianism Volvo World Cup final (show jumping), Gothenburg (to 18) Basketball Budweiser Championships Play-Off (second leg)

16 Swimming British Grand Prix (50m), toc (to 18) Racing Scottish National Handicap Chase, Ayr

Gymnastics Phythmic Gymnastics, British Group Championships, Hinckley Snooker Embassy World Championship, Crucible Theatre, Sheffled (to 3/5)

Rubay Union last scheduled fixtures for Allied

Basketball Budweiser Championships Play-Off (thid Athletics London Marathon

Athletics London Marathon

Rally, Lioret de Mar (to 21)

Motor racing British Touring Car Championship

Motorcycling Superbikes R2, Australia; 500cc Malaysian GP 19 Tennis Monte Carlo Open (to 25) 21 Football European Champions' League seg " final second leg 22 Football European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final

second leg Golf Peugeot Open de Espana (to 25) 23 Boxing ABA Senior Championships Finals, Barnsley Metrodome

Racing Whitbread Gold Cup Handicap
Chase, Sandown Judo British Open Championships, NIA, Birminghain

Speed Skating Skater of the Year Final, Altrincham Rugby Union Royal Navy v Army, Twickenham

Football FA Umbro Sunday Cup Final Motorcycling 500cc Japanese GP 26 Table Tennis World Championships Belgrade (to 9/5)

27 Rugby Union Scottish Tennents Velvet Cug Final 28 Football England international tha

29 Gotf Fiat and Fita Italian Open, Turin (to 2/5)

KEY: 6 weekends

While all possible care has been taken in the compilation of this calendar, dates and venues are subject to change. Please check with organisers before arranging to attend events

THIS YEAR'S MAJOR EVENTS

Compiled by Sam Wallace

Athletics

London Marathon, 18 May World Champs, Seville, 20-29 Aug

Boxing Evander Holyfield v Lennox Lewis, world heavyweight championship, New York, 13 Mar

Cricket

Test series v New Zealand: First Test, Edgbaston 1-5 July Second Test, Lord's 22-26 July Third Test, Old Trafford 5-9 Aug Fourth Test, The Oval 19-23 Aug NatWest Trophy Final, Lord's 29 Aug Super Cup Final, Lords 1 July World Cup: see panel above

Tour de France 3-25 July

Football

Worthington Cup final, 12 March Football Uefa Cup final, 12 May European Cup-Winners' Cup final, 19 May European Cup final, 26 May FA Cup final, 22 May Tennents Scottish Cup final, 29 May

Golf

US Masters Tournament Augusta National, Georgia 8-US Open Pinehurst No. 2, North Carolina 17-20 June The Open, Carnoustie, 15-18 July

US PGA Championship, Medinah, Chicago 12 Aug Ryder Cup, The Country Club, Massachusetts (24-26

Motor Racing

Formula One British Grand Prix, Silverstone 11 July Racing Grand National, Aintree 10 April

National Hunt Festival, Cheltenham, 16-18 Mar

Royal Ascot, 15-18 Jun Rowing

The Derby, Epsom 5 June

The Boat Race 3 April Henley Royal Regatta 30 June-4 July Rugby League

Super League, final weekend, 12-13 Sept

Sak Cut Challenge Cup final, 1 May

Dunbar First Division season

Rugby Union European Cup Final, 29 Jan Tetley's Bitter Cup Final, Twickenham 15 May Swalec Cup final, tbc 15 May Scottish Tennents Velvet Cup final, Murrayfield 27 April Five Nations' Championship ireland v France, Dublin; Scotland v Wales, Murravfield 6 Feb

England v Scotland, Twickenham; Wales v Ireland. Wembley 20 Feb ireland v England, Dublin; France v Wales, Paris 6 Mar England v France, Twickenham; Scotland v Ireland,

Murrayfield 20 Mar France v Scotland, Paris April 10 Wales v England, Wembley 11 April World Cup: see panel above

Snooker

Embassy World Champs 17 Apr-May 3

Tenniş

Australian Open, Melbourne 18-31 Jan French Open, Paris 24 May-6June Wimbledon June 21-July 24 US Open, New York 30 Aug-12 Sept Davis Cup final, 3 Dec

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Section of the sectio Par Woody Woods (to 18)

CALENDAR OF WORLD SPORT 1999



RUGBY UNION WORLD CUP

- I A: South Africa, Scotland, Spain, repéchage qualifier ः ्। B: New Zealand, England, Italy, repêchage qualifier
- »I C: France, Fiji. Canada, Namibia
- ि औ **D:** Wales, Argentina, Western Samoa, Japan
- H E: Australia, Ireland, Romania, United States

	Pool matches	
Oct	Wales v Argentina	Cardiff
	Fiji v Namībia	Béziers
2 Oct	France v Canada	Béziers
	Spain v Repêchage qualifier	Galashiels
	England v Italy	Twickenham
	ireland v US	Dublin
3 Oct	Western Samoa v Japan	Wrexham
	New Zealand v Repêchage qualit	ier Bristol
	Scotland v South Africa	Murrayfield
	Australia v Romania	Belfast
1 Oct	Scotland v Repêchage qualifier	Murrayfield
3 6.	France v Namibia	Bordeaux
- Coct	. Fiji v Canada	Bordeaux
	Wales v Japan	Cardiff
	England v New Zealand	Twickenham
	US v Romania	Dublin
10 Oct	Argentina v Western Samoa	Llanelli
	Ireland v Australia	Dublin
	South Africa v Spain	Murrayfield
	Italy v Repêchage qualifier	Leicester
rs 14 Oct	New Zealand v Italy	Huddersfield
	Wales v Western Samoa	Cardiff
:.	Australia v US	Limerick
	Canada v Namibia	Toulouse
5 Oct	England v Repêchage qualifier	Twickenham
	South Africa v Repechage qualifie	er Glasgow
.	Ireland v Romania	Dublin
16 Oct	France v Fiji	Toulouse
	Scotland v Spain	Murrayfield
	Argentina v Japan	Cardiff

Quarter-final play-offs

120 Oct Runner-up B v Runner-up C (H) Twickenham Runner-up A v Runner-up D (G) Murrayfield Runner-up E v Best third place (F)

Quarter-finals

Cardiff	Winner D v Winner E (M)	ी सेटा
Paris	Winner A v Winner H (J)	24 Oct
Dublin	Winner C v Winner F (L)	
Murrayfield	Winner B v Winner G (K)	

Semi-finals

30 OCL	AANTINES O A AANTINES IAS	144 CUCI II ICI II
31 Oct	Winner K v Winner L	Twickenham

Third and fourth place play-off Cardiff rs 4 Nov





The South African captain, Francois Pienaar, brings a nation to its feet as he shows off the Webb Ellis Trophy in Johannesburg in 1995

Racing 2,000 Guineas, Newmarket Rugby League Silk Cup Challenge Cup final ketball Budweiser Championships, Wembley

Racing 1000 Guneas, Newmarket

or racing Formula One San Marino Grand Prix,

orc sing Superbikes Round 3, Donington

AXA FA Women's Cup Final nis German Open, Hamburg (to 9) ckey EHL Premiership finals, Milton Keynes off Open de France, (to 9) lestrianism Badminton Horse Trials (to 9) oxing ABA England v Scotland, Hull cket World Cup warm-up matches Kent v Engi; Northants v Sri Lanka; Somerset v Kenya; .sex v South Africa; Worcester v Zimbabwe Cricket World Cup warm-up matches; Durham v Scotland: Derby v Pakistan; Essex v ngladesh; Glamorgan v Australia; Gloucester v st Indies; Hampshire v New Zealand Football Weish Cup Final Rallying Rally de France - Tour de Corse, Ajac-

to 121 fen's Cup final, Mitton Keynes sket World Cup warm-up matches Derbyshire v ibabwe; Essex v England; Gloucester v Kenya; tingham v Sri Lanka; Kent v South Africa; York-

torcycling 500cc Spanish GP Tennis Italian Open, Rome (to 16) cket World Cup warm-up matches Durham v istan; Lancashire v Scotland; Middlesex v ngladesh; Surrey v New Zealand, Warwicks v st Indies; Worcester v Australia Cricket World Cup warm-up matches Glamorı v Kenya; Hampshire v England; Leicestershire ri Lanka; Middlesex v South Africa; Nottingham

idia; Warwicks v Zimbabwe Football Uefa Cup final cket World Cup warm-up matches Somerset v stralia; Surrey v West Indies; Sussex v New iland; Northants v Bangladesh; Yorkshire v Scotd; Lancashire v Pakistan Golf Benson and Hedges International, Oxford

16 Ecastrianism Royal Windsor Horse Show : Brabazon Trophy, Moortown (to 16) Fencing British Epée Championships Cycling Tour of Italy (to 6 June)

tor sport British Touring Car, Brands Hatch (to 16)

Football FA Umbro Trophy Final, Wembley; FA Youth Cup final Rugby Union Tetley's Bitter Cup Final; Swalec Cup final, Millenium Stadium

Racing Lockinge Stakes, Newbury Football Football League Play-Offs semi-fi-(Onals first legs Football FA Carlsberg Vase final, Wernbley Motor racing Formula One Monaco Grand Prix Hockey Women's Cup final, Milton Keynes Motorcycling Superbikes R4, Spain 17 Badminton World Championships, Brondbyhallen, Copenhagen, Denmark (to 23) Tennis ATP Tour World Team Championship, Dus-

seldorf (to 23) 19 Football European Cup-Winners' Cup final Football League Play-Offs semi-finals second legs 20 Judo Senior European Championships (to 23) 21 Golf Deutsche Bank - SAP Open - TPC of France, Heidelberg, Germany (to 24)

ஒரு)Football FA Cup final A Railying Raily Argentina, Cordoba (to 25) Equestrianism Chatsworth Horse Trials (to 23) എAthletics European Clubs Championships Cycling Prutour, Great Britain (to 29) Rugby Union Allied Dunbar Premier One Champions v World XV

Motorcycling 500cc French GP 24 Tennis French Open (to 6 June). 26 Football European Cup final 27 Equestrianism Windsor Horse Trials (to 30) 27 Gymnastics Rhythmic Gymnastics, Euro Championships, Budapest (to 30)

Rowing World Cup, Munich (to 30) 28 Golf Volvo PGA Championship, Wentworth (to Karate European Karate Fed. Senior Champi-

onships, Athens (to 30) Swimming Super Grand Prix, Sheffield (to 30) Football Tennents Scottish Cup final 公司Football League Play-Offs final, Third Divi-

Rugby Union Middlesex Sevens, Twickenham Canceling UK National Championships, Abersoch, Wales (to 1/6)

Pootball League Play-Off final, Second Division Motor racing Formula One Spanish Grand Prix, British Touring Car Outton Park (to 31)

Motorcycling Superbikes R5, Monza, Italy 31 Football League Play-Off final, First Division Golf British Amateur Championship, Royal County Down (to 5 June) Motor cycling TT Races, Isle of Man (to 11 June)

1 Tennis Powder Byrne Trophy, Surbiton (to 6) 3 Golf English Open (to 6); US Women's Open (to

4 Racing Oaks Stakes, Coronation Cup, Epsom Racing Derby Stakes, Epsom (a) Football Euro 2000 qualifiers Rep. of Ireland v Yugoslavia; Faroe Islands v Scotland; England v

Sweden; Italy v Wales Hockey Men's Champions Trophy, Brisbane (to 13) Railying Acropolis Raily, Athens (to 9) Motorcycling 500cc Italian GP 7 Tennis Stella Artois Grass Court Championship (Men), The Queens's Club, London (to 13); DFS

Classic, Edgbaston (to 13) Sailing Lymington Cup (to 12) 9 Football Euro 2000 qualifiers Rep. of Ireland v Macedonia; Czech Republic v Scotland; Bulgaria v

England: Wales v Denmark 10 Equestrianism Bramham Horse Trials (to 13) ച്ച് എMotor racing Le Mans 24-hours, France

5] A Motor racing Formula One Canadian
UGrand Prix, Montreal Motorcycling Superbiks R6, Germany 14 Tennis Nottingham Open (to 20); Direct Line Insurance Women's Championships, Eastbourne (to 20); pre-Wimbledon qualifying, Roehampton (to 17)

15 Equestrianism Aachen Horse Show, Germany

(to 20) 17 Racing Ascot Gold Cup, Royal Ascot Golf US Open Pinehurst, North Carolina (to 20) Rowing World Cup, Vienna (to 20)

Fifa Football Worner's World Cup, US (to 10 ∌July) Athletics European Cup, Paris (to 20) Motor racing British Touring Car, Donington Park

20 Motorcycling 500cc Catalonian GP

21 Tennis The Championships Wimbledon (Men & Women) (to 4 June) 25 Cricket Oxford University v Cambridge University, Lord's (to 28)

26 Rugby Union Wales v South Africa Motorcycling 500cc Netherlands GP (7) 57 Motorcycling Superbikes Round 7, San

Motor Racing Formula One French Grand Prix, Magny-Cours Athletics British Grand Prix II, Gateshead 29 Golf European Team Championship, Monticello

30 Rowing Henley Royal Regatta (to 4 June) Athletics Golden League meeting, Oslo

1 Cricket England v New Zealand first Test, Edg-Golf Murphy's Irish Open, Dublin (to 4)

ஒ Racing Eclipse Stakes, Sandown Cycling Tour De France (to 25) Motor racing British Touring Car Croft (to 4) Motorcycling 500cc British GP, Donington

7 Equestrianism Royal International Horse Show, Hickstead (to 11) Golf The Standard Life Loch Lomond, Glasgow (to

Athletics Golden League meeting, Rome 8 Racing July Cup, Newmarket Swimming National Swimming and Diving Champs (inc European Trials) (to 11) Rowing World Cup. Luceme (to 11)

Cricket Super Cup semi-final 1, Edgbaston The Cricket Super Cup semi-final 2, Edgbaston

Motor Racing FI British Grand Prix, Silverstone Gotf Open final qualifying, Panmure (to 12) Motorcycling Superbikes R8, Laguna Seca, US 12 Swimming European Long Distance Swimming Cup (5km), Bosworth Water

13 Tennis LTA Manchester Challenger (to 18) 14 Football European Champions' League, first qualifying round, first leg 15 Golf 128th Open Championship, Carnoustie (to 18) 16 Railying New Zealand Raily, Auckland (to 18)

Athletics IAAF World Youth Championships, Bydgoszcz, Poland (to 18) Motor racing British Touring Car, Snetterton (to 16) Rowing National Championships, Nottm (to 19) Tennis Davis Cup World Group (second round)

Motorcycling 500cc German GP 21 Football European Champions' League, first qualifying round, second leg Athletics Golden League meeting, Paris 22 Cricket England v New Zealand second Test

Match, Lord's (to 26) Golf TNT Dutch Open, Amsterdam (to 25) 23 Athletics AAA Championships, venue toa (to 25) Swimming European Championships, Turkey (to 1/9) A Racing King George VI and Queen Elizabeth

் Stakes, Ascot ஒடு Motor Racing Formula One Austrian Grand 26 Golf English Amateur Championship, St Mellion

28 Racing Sussex Stakes, Goodwood Football Confederation Cup, Mexico (to 8/8) Football European Champions' League, second qualifying round, first leg 30 Golf Smurfit European Open, Dublin (to 2/8)

Equestrianism British Horse Trials Championships, Gatcombe Park (to 1/8) Sailing Cowes Week (to 7/8)
Motor racing British Touring Car Thruxton

Cricket Super Cup final, Lord's Motor Racing F1 German GP, Hockenheim Motor Racing F1 Hungarian GP, Hungaroring Motorcycling Superbikes Round 9, Brands Hatch 17 Racing Judomonte International, York 4 Equestrianism Dublin Horse Show (to 8) Hockey Men's and Women's Four Nations Tournament, Milton Keynes (to 8) Oval (to 23) Football European Champions' League, second qualifying round, second leg (to 28) Rowling World Junior Championships, Bulgaria (to 8)

Athletics Golden League meeting, Monte Carlo 5 Cricket England v New Zealand third Test, Old Trafford (to 9) Golf Volvo Scandinavian Masters, Malmo, Sweden

Athletics Welsh Games, Cardiff 6 Athletics European Junior Champs, Latvia (to 8) Athletics British Grand Prix meeting, Sheffield

(a) Football Charity Shield, that (b) Motorcycling 500cc that

10 Football Uefa Cup, qualifying round, first leg 11 Football European Champions' League, third qualifying round, first leg Athletics Golden League meeting, Zurich 12 Golf US PGA Championship, Medinah, Chicago;

Women's British Open, Woburn (to 15) Football Premier League season starts
Cricket NatWest Trophy semi-final 1,

Motor racing British Touring Car, Knockhill (to 15)

Cricket NatWest Trophy semi-final 2, Old Trafford 18 Cricket England v New Zealand fourth Test, The Hockey Women's European Nations Cup, Cologne

19 Racing Nunthorpe Stakes, York Golf BMW International Open, Munich, Germany (to 20 Athletics World Championships, Seville (to 29) Rallying Neste Rally Finland, Jyvaskyla (to 22)

ন্ধ Rugby Union Wales v Canada ஞ்ஞ் Rowing World Champs, Canada (to 29) 当会 Motorcycling 500cc Czech Republic GP 24 Football Uefa Cup, qualifying round, second leg 25 Equestrianism European Show Jumping Cham-

pionships, British Jumping Derby, Hickstead (to 30) Footbatt European Champions' League, third qualifying round, second leg 26 Golf WGC-NEC International, Ohio, US (to 29) ஒடி Rugby Union Wales v France

மிடு Cricket NatWest Trophy Final, Lord's Motorcycling Superbikes R10, Austria Motor Racing Formula One Belgian Grand Prix, Spa; British Touring Car Brands Hatch (to 30) 30 Tennis US Open (to 12/9)

1 Hockey Men's European Nations Cup, Padova (to 17) Athletics Golden League meeting, Brussels

2 Equestrianism Burghley Horse Trials (to 5) Racing Haydock Park Sprint Cup, Haydock Football Euro 2000 qualifiers Croatba v Rep of Ireland; Bosnia v Scotland; England v Luxembourg;

Gymnastics Men's Gymnastics British Championships, Fenton Manor (to 5) Cycling Tour of Spain (to 26) Ice Hockey Sekonda Superleague season starts Motorcycling Superbikes R11, Netherlands;

8 Football Euro 2000 qualifiers Malta v Rep of Ireland; Estonia v Scotland; Poland v England 9 Equestrianism Blenheim Horse Trials (to 12) 10 Racing St Leger Stakes, Doncaster

Athletics Grand Prix Final, Munich
Motor Racing British Touring Cer, Oulton Park (to 12) Golf Walker Cup, Naim (to 12)

্র ি Motor Racing F1 Italian Grand Prix, Monza Rugby League Super League, final weekend Motorcycling Superbikes Round 12, Germany Tennis President's Cup, Tashkent

13 Tennis Samsung Open, Bournemouth 14 Football Uefa Cup, first round, first leg 16 Rallying 555 China Rally, Beijing (to 19) Equestrianism European Three-Day Event Championships, Luhmuhlen, Germany (to 19) 17 Equestrianism National Dressage Championships, Stoneleigh (to 19)

Motor Racing British Touring Car,
Silverstone (to 19)

1 (i) Motorcycling 500cc Spanish Valencia GP

22 Golf Home International, Royal Co Down (to 24) 24 Golf Ryder Cup, The Country Club, Mass (to 26) Tennis Davis Cup World Group (semi-finals) (to 26) அர் Motor Racing Formula One European

(C) Grand Prix, Nurburgring Racing Fillies Mile, Ascot 27 Tennis Grand Slam Cup, Munich 28 Gymnastics Rhythmic World Championships, Osaka (to 3/10) Racing Cheveley Park Stakes, Newmarket

otball Uefa Cup, first round, second leg 29 Equestrianism Horse of the Year Show, Wembley Arena (to 3 October) 30 Racing Middle Park Stakes, Newmarket

Racing Prix De L'Arc De Triomphe, Longchamp Motorcycling 500cc Australian Grand Prix 7 Judo World Championships, NIA, Birmingham (to 10) Golf Alfred Dunhill Cup, St Andrews (to 10) 8 Football England international, tba Cycling World Road Championships, Verona (to 10)

Football Euro 2000 qualifiers: Scotland v Lithuania; Wales v Switzerland; England internationel tha Gymnastics Men and Women's World Champi-

onships, Tianjin, China (to 16) 1 Motorcycling Superbikes R13, Japan; 500cc

South African Grand Prix 14 Golf Cisco World Matchplay Championship. Wentworth (to 17)

U // Grand Prix, Kuala Lumpur 19 Football Uefa Cup, second round, first leg 20 Cycling World Track Championships, Berlin (to Motorcycling 500cc Brazilian Grand Prix

(a) Racing Champion Stakes, Newmarket (b) Baseball World Series (to 24)

ব্য 💬 Motor Racing Formula One Malaysian

25 Tennis Eurocard Open, Stuttgart Sailing Americas Cup Challenger Series 1, New Zealand (to 7/11) 28 Table Tennis Men's World Cup, tbc (to 31)

Golf Volvo Masters, Jerez, Spain (to 31) എ A Motor Racing Formula One Japanese പ്പി Grand Prix, Suzuka

Motorcycling 500cc Argentinian Grand Prix

1 Tennis Paris Open (to 7) 2 Football Uefa Cup, second round, second leg 4 Railying API Raily Australia, Perth (to 7) 10 Football Fifa U17 World Championship, New Zealand (to 27)

11 Golf Johnnie Walker Classic, venue toc 15 Tennis ATP Tour Doubles Championship: Connecticut; WTA Tour Chase Championships (women's), New York; British National Championships, Telford Salling America's Cup Challenger Series 2, NZ (to 28)

18 Golf World Cup of Golf, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Railying Network U Cheltenham (to 23) Rallying Network Q Rally of Great Britain,

Roque

17 Golf European Tour Qualifying School, San

22 Tennis ATP World Tour Championship, Hanover 23 Football Uefa Cup, third round, first leg

എട്ട Racing Hennessy Gold Cup Handicap △ // Chase, Newbury

3 Tennis Davis Cup final ice Hockey Benson and Hedges Cup final,

Sheffield Arena Sailing Americas Cup Challenger Series 3, New Zealand (to 17)

7 Rugby Union Varsity Match, Twickenham Football Uefa Cup, third round, second leg

Athletics European Cross Country Champ-ionships, Velenje, Slovenia 16 Swimming British Winter Nationals, Ponds Forge, Sheffield (to 19) Equestrianism Olympia Show Jumping Champi-27 Ice Hockey Superleague All Star Game Racing King George VI Chase, Kempton

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Markets edge up as euro looms

SHARES GAINED ground in the US and Europe yesterday in extremely quiet trading, but more gloom about Japan's economy pulled Tokyo and Hong Kong shares lower. The London stock exchange was closed for the Bank Holiday. Wall Street was led up by technology stocks. The Dow

had risen 31 points, 0.3 per cent, to 9,250.03 by midmorning. The Nasdaq was up 25 points, or 1.2 per cent, at

In Europe - where preparations for the euro kept trading volumes low - one of the biggest gainers was DaimlerChrysler. It reported a 13 per cent rise in group revenues (on the previous combined figures of Daimler-Benz and Chrysler) to \$148bn (£89bn), 1998 profits would be significantly higher than the combined 1997 total, the company said. Finland's Nokia advanced on reports of strong Christmas sales of mobile phones.

But in Tokyo the Nikkei index fell 89 points to 13,709.96. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 122 points to 10,170.14. Taiwan's market tumbled 201.35 points to 6,481.65.

Germany faces exports collapse



GERMANY'S DOLE queues are expected to reduce in 1999, but the outlook for Europe's largest economy remains subdued, the country's leading economic institutes forecast yesterday. "Exports will weaken dramatically," Karl Heinrich Oppenländer, oresident of the Ifo institute, told the Hamburger Abendblatt.

The institutes said this would be offset by significant growth in domestic demand. Four of think-tanks forecast gross GDP growth of between 1.7 and 2.3 per cent, while a fifth predicted only 1.4 per cent. All expected strong domestic demand to cut unemployment by 200,000 to 300,000, but they said wage demands posed a risk. Werver Müller, the Economics Minister, (pictured) called on the unions to temper wage claims.

Small firms look to cash flow

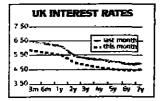
CONFIDENCE IS low among small UK businesses, a survey published yesterday shows. Nine out of 10 firms among 300 with turnover of less than £1m said improving cash flow ould be their priority. Keith Higley, managing director of Alex Lawrie, the business finance specialist that did the survey, said: "With growth predicted to slow to below 1 per cent in 1999, it is encouraging that small firms are heeding the warning signs by concentrating on cash flow."

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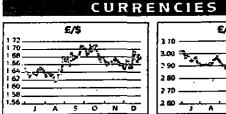
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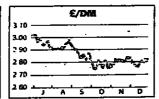
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	0.53	-0.23	0.57	-0.15	2.07	0.16	2.74	0.20
Germany	3.31	-0.39	3.18	-0.78	3.91	-1.32	4.81	-1.02





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Yen	194.46	-40.25	215.94	Yen	116.29	-40.07	130.58	
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OTHER INDICATORS

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Brent Oil (9.96	0.42	16.99	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	De
Gold (S)			296.45	RPI	164.40	3.00	159.61	De
Silver (\$)	4.91	-0.11	6.03	Base	Rates	6.25	7.25	

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Malta (lira)

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

Source: Thomas Cook

TOURIST RATES

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Australia (S)	2,6340	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.85
Austria (schillings)	19.02	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0502
Belgium (francs)	55.91	New Zealand (\$)	3.0793
Canada (\$)	2.5137	Norway (krone)	12.45
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7996	Portugal (escudos)	276.31
Denmark (krone)	10.36	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0935
Finland (markka)	8.2960	Singapore (5)	2.6473
France (francs)	9.0878	Spain (pesetas)	230.08
Germany (marks)	2.7197	South Africa (rands)	9.5253
Greece (drachma)	455.23	Sweden (krone)	13.08
Hong Kong (\$)	12.50	Switzerland (francs)	2.2147
ireland (punts)	1.0888	Thailand (bahts)	55.7 <u>9</u>
Indian (rupees)	63.93	Turkey (lirasi)	4 <u>94574</u>
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(fira)	2695		
Japan (yen)	189.45	Rates for indication purpo	ses only
Malaysia (ringgite)	6.0780		

Big spenders head for crisis

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON was not alone late last year when he first characterised the economic turmoil in Asia as "a few small glitches in the road". Expert opinion was then pretty well united in the belief that the region's problems would not amount to a row of beans. The experts know bet-

Mr Clinton's gung-ho optimism was not wholly misplaced. Although much of Asia has sunk, the American economy has enjoyed another year's robust expansion in excess of 3.5 per cent, substantially faster than was expected a year ago. And thanks to the American locomotive, the world outside Asia and Japan has enjoyed a rate of growth - around 3 per cent - that compares favourably with the 2 per cent or so annual average this decade.

The key question is whether all this can last. For without America, one would need to look to Europe or Japan to take up the running. As far as 1999 is concerned.

the candid reply about America is "don't know". History is replete with examples of booms



MARTIN GODLEY

that continue for longer than anyone expects - or, just as unpredictably, reverse into

But looking ahead over the next few years, it seems to us wholly improbable that the United States could continue to act as the world's spender of last resort. Indeed, the mediumterm outlook appears exceedingly bleak.

America's long recovery from its early 1990s recession has not been built on a miracle of technological advance, but rather on a substantial reduction in unemployment. Even allowing for efficiency improvements, it is than private income. The result

much above 2 per cent without running into bottlenecks.

But even more important than supply potential is the question of demand. In the face of a bigger budget surplus and a worsening trade performance, American demand has been kept alive by a tremendous burst of spending by households and companies well in excess of the advance in after-tax incomes. A nowunprecedented gap between private spending and income has been financed by lots of

borrowing. The impact on economic activity has been profound. In 1998, the volume of private spending probably rose by around 6 per cent, almost twice the increase in disposable income. Without this excess private spending and increased One reason is capacity, net borrowing, the economy would have stagnated.

Could this pattern of growth continue? The answer is a resounding "no". Without a fiscal boost, private spending would need to continue to rise faster unlikely that America could would be a fabulous increase in explosive house prices and

sustain medium-term growth indebtedness, both domestic financial deregulation, Britain's and overseas.

In a report just published by the Research Group at Phillips & Drew, we illustrate the dimensions of the problem. To keep the economy ticking along at a 2 per cent or so rate of growth, private spending would eventually need to exceed income by an amount equivalent to over 8 per cent of the gross domestic product, double the

unprecedented 1998 level. Out-

standing private debt would

escalate from nearly 1.7 to 2.4 times annual income and external debt would rise to over 30 per cent of GDP thanks to a large and widening trade gap. Evidently, the present pattern of American growth cannot continue. At some stage, private sector spending will subside to a rate at best equal to, and more probably below, the growth of incomes. If it had not already done so, the stock market bubble behind much of today's

burst, amplifying the deflation. Britain's experience before and after the late 1980s boom offers a parallel Spurred by

spending buoyancy would

private sector overspent its income at the peak by 6 per cent of GDP. Nemesis came during the next three years as a deep and brutal recession. But even if we assume in America's case

a much less marked reversion

in saving behaviour, we find that the shock could potentially wipe out economic growth on average over the next five years. The collateral damage to the rest of the world would be severe, but very unevenly distributed. Worst affected would be those economies heavily reliant on exports to America -Canada, Asia and Latin America. Thanks to their much lower

exposure, Europe and Japan

would suffer least from a US

stagnation, although a further

shock to a depressed Japan hardly bears contemplation. But surely none of this could happen? Would not economic policy respond with vigour to the potential deflation and substantially cushion the blow? Our answer is "yes" and pos-

sibly "no". Yes, interest rates would be brought down swiftly - but in the advanced world

manoeuvre. Nominal interest rates might have to fall to zero simply to match falling price expectations. If so, there would be no scope to offset the deflation by monetary means

The spotlight is therefore turned on fiscal policy. Fiscal explosion would be a more promising option, but cannot be undertaken by America alone. If America merely replaced deficient private demand with extra public demand, the economy would run ever larger current account deficits. The only plausible solution would be coordinated fiscal pump priming in Europe and America. And how likely is that? Bill Clinton is savouring the budget surplus while European governments face institutional and intellectual hurdles enshrined in the oxymoronic Stability and Growth Pact. Yet without a radical rethink by policy makers of their fiscal aversion, the world may face a road disfigured by glitches, if not the abyss.

Bill Martin works for Phillips & Drew, and Wynne Godley works for the Jerome Levy there is not that much room for Economics Institute.

And the 1998 winner is... Costa Rica!

News Analysis: Despite the worst global financial crisis in a quarter of a century, some stock markets provided sparkling returns

FORGET UK blue chips, US in- BY LEA PATERSON dustrials and Far Eastern growth stocks. If you wanted to make serious money on the stock markets in 1998, Costa Rican equities and European high-technology stocks were the ones to go for. If you bet on companies in Russia, China or Venezuela, however, you prob-

ably lost your shirt. The tiny Costa Rican exchange was the stock market ipate in EMU's first wave, it is star of 1998, soaring in value by expected to join within a few almost 90 per cent - six times years, a perception that helped greater than the percentage gain in the UK's FTSE 100.

Easdaq, the fledgling European market for high-technology stocks, came a close second. gaining almost 80 per cent. Anyone who put their money in Finnish equities should also have come up smelling of roses. The Hex General index soared by 50 per cent, far outperforming stock markets elsewhere in Scandinavia.

The key to the success of Costa Rica – as well as several other smaller emerging equity markets such as Panama, Ghana and Morocco - was that investors were forced to look for new sources of high returns after the collapse of equity markets in the more familiar emerging economies such as Brazil and Mexico. The relative illiquidity of these smaller markets was another important factor.

Michael Hughes of Baring Asset Management said: "People are moving away from the core emerging markets and looking at markets they were not allowed to invest in or were not interested in before."

Another leading analyst said: "Costa Rica is a tiny market, and so its stock market index can be affected by small trades. Combine that with the fact that it's never had much investor interest before, and you can see how a few big buyers coming in can really move the market."

one of 1998's success stories. Nasdaq, the US high-tech market, had a good year - the benchmark Nasdaq composite index was up by almost 40 per cent. But it was outdone by companies listed on Easdag, Nasdag's European equivalent. Investors realised there was value to be had in telecommunication and IT companies based in Europe.

Mr Hughes said: "Internet usage began to explode in 1998. and a lot of telecoms stocks which benefited from increased Internet connections – did well." The boom in European high-

where Nokia, the mobile phone company, accounts for 50 per in the coming year. cent of the market. But this was not the only reason why Finnish economic and monetary union in Europe also played a role. Sharda Persaud at Paribas

EMU. Once Finland was linked to the EMU block it did well." The "EMU effect" was also good news for Italy, Spain and Greece. In Italy and Spain, which will both participate in the first wave of currency union, key stock market indices gained more than 30 per cent. And although Greece will not partic-

send the market up 70 per cent. Smaller markets such as Costa Rica and Panama aside. Latin American stock markets took a pounding in 1998. The Brazilian Bovespa index fell by 30 per cent as investors tretted about devaluation. Falling crude oil prices hit shares in Venezuela and Mexico, both of which rely on oil revenues.

One strategist said: Venezuela is an oil exporter and its revenues have collapsed. There was also the election of a new president and there has been a lot of uncertainty about what his policies might be."

Asian stock markets, most of which had a terrible time in 1997, performed slightly better in 1998. That said, however, most major Asia-Pacific exchanges ended down on the year, with Chinese stocks among the worst hit. China's Shanghai B index lost around 50 per cent of its value amid worries about slowuation. And the illiquidity of the Chinese market meant that a few sellers were able to send the market tumbling, just as a few large buyers in Costa Rica were

South Korea was the notable exception to the Asian gloom. The market soared by almost 50 per cent, making it one of the biggest gainers of 1998. This was a reflection both of the extent of the falls in late 1997, and the High-technology stocks were huge efforts made by the government to turn the economy round.

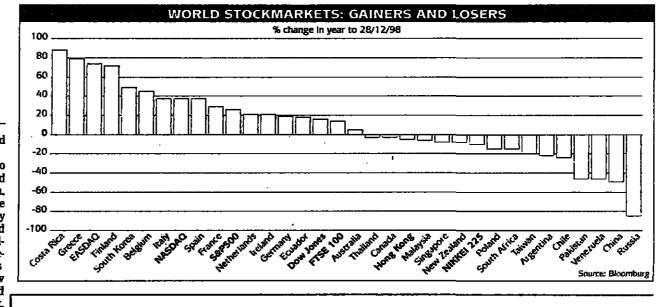
able to send shares sky-high.

Mr Hughes said: "South Korea has changed its macroeconomic policies quickly and there is support around for it." The worst-performing mar-

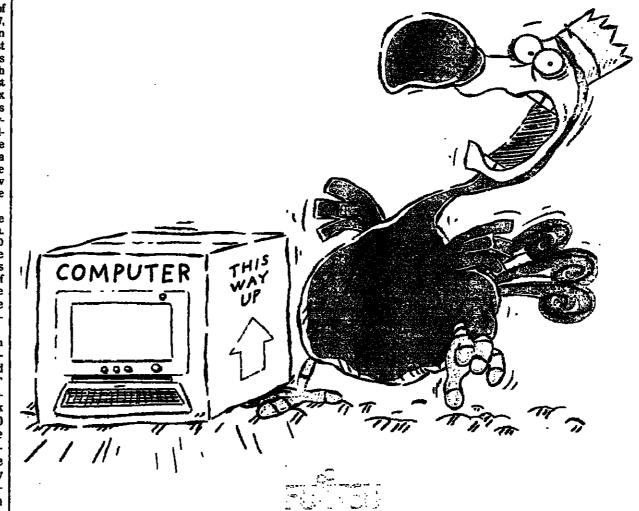
ket was Russia. The benchmark RTS index slumped almost 90 per cent in a year which saw the world's eighth-largest economy default on its debt, devalue its currency and print money with abandon. And with hyper inflation beckoning, along with worries over further debt defaults and continued political untech stocks helped Finland certainty, analysts are gloomy about the prospects for Russia

The dream equity market in 1998, therefore, would have been stocks boomed - the advent of a small emerging economy with European links and a big share of high-technology companies. But those hoping to make a

high return in 1999 should note said: "At the start of 1998, there those classic words of investwere a lot of things people didn't know about Finland. One of ment wisdom: past returns are these was whether Finland was no guide to future performance. going to make the first round of Except possibly in Russia.



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SPORT

Fourth Test: Atherton's wretched series continues as Australia leave tourists in danger of another Ashes defeat

Waugh takes the fight to England

OF ALL the cricketing wonders of the sporting world, Steve Waugh is sure- in Melbourne ly the master Sachin Tendulkar may have the glamour and Brian Lara the sublime touch, but Waugh has the sheer will to make vital scores when they are most needed. On a day when the Australian vicecaptain went past Sir Donald Bradman's aggregate of 6,996 Test runs. England felt the full force of his

It is a value not measured simply in runs, but in a ruthlessness few would find comfortable, even in a sporting environment as close to ancient Rome as this. If you think the analogy an unlikely one just ask Michael Atherton how he felt when Damien Fleming bowled him for his second nought of the match and 43,000 people roared as one.

Test cricket can break, as well as make, those who play it. Just witness the differing fortunes of Waugh and Atherton in this match. With his side under pressure, Waugh duly serves up his 17th Test century, while Atherton, in denial over certain shortcomings, registers his first pair in Tests. One a champ, the other

at least for the moment, a chump. Atherton, one of the few England batsmen to rival Waugh's tenacity over the last decade, has not even

MELBOURNE

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA - First Innings

'M A Taylor c Hick b Gough

England 270 & 65-2 Australia 340

come close to it this series. A mixture of bad luck and poor technique his bat is coming down across his body, rather than in an arc from wicketkeeper to bowler - have undermined his effectiveness.

He claims not to feel out of touch, but with scores of 0, 28, 1, 35, 41, 5, 0 and 0, he will have a job persuading all but the most blinkered acolyte. Unlikely to tour Australia again, he now has the Sydney Test to show the locals that he is more than a walking wicket for Glenn Mc-Grath and Co.

By contrast, Waugh's repute just seems to grow and grow, mostly to a point where eulogy has become exhausted. He is not Bradman, and it would be blasphemous to suggest that he was. And yet similarities exist, the cool blinkered approach to run-scoring being one.

Of course the Don was at his best dictating the pace of the game, whereas Waugh likes the situation to shape the game for him. Pressure is his muse and it inspires him almost as much as the leper colony in Calcutta, to which he is now committed,

raising money whenever he can. This Test, with Australia on 98 for 3, had been nip and tuck until Waugh came in. Six and a quarter hours later, when he had eventually run out of partners, England were 70 runs behind, a deficit that had cost them two second innings'

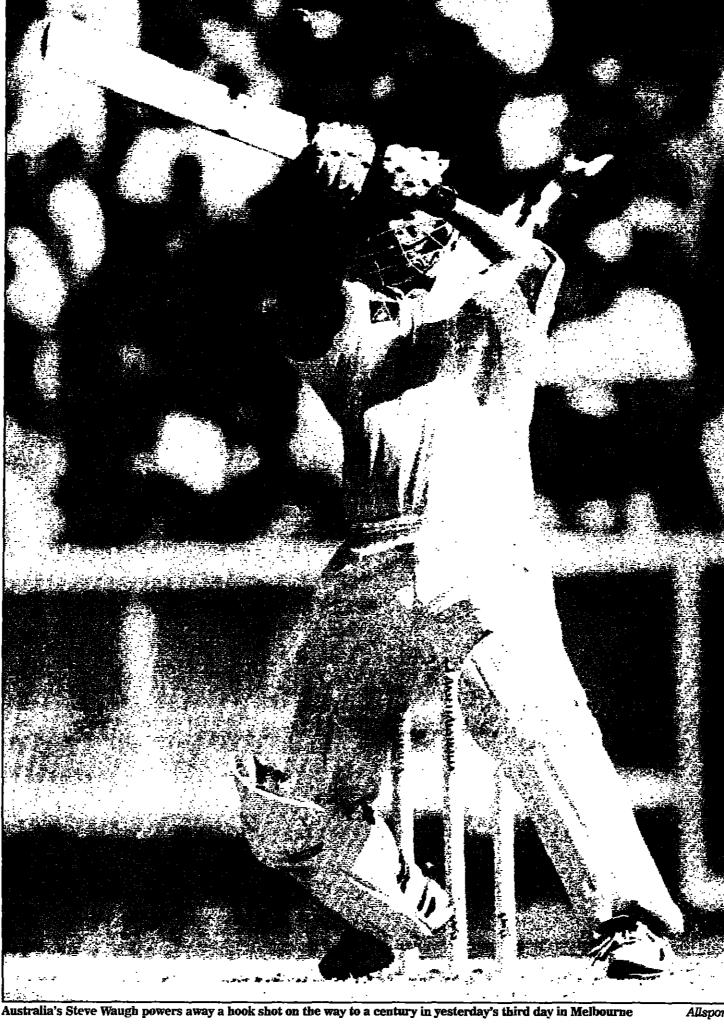
wickets by the end of play. The irony is that until Ian Healy joined him, England, with three wickets in the morning session, including the recalled Darren Lehmann, had been having a decent time of it.

It is a clever combination that works well, though to begin with it was Healy, with his quirky lofted clips and slashes over the top of gully, who got the scoreboard ticking. Adding 58. Waugh only really began to take control once Healy was out, well caught by Dean Headley making ground to his left after the keeper had whipped a short ball from Fras-

er down towards long leg.
At that point, Australia with four wickets standing, were 61 runs behind England. It should have been three, but Graeme Hick diving to his left at second slip, dropped Fleming

on nought off Headley. Not for the first time in this series. a difficult chance had been floored by England. In terms of what Fleming eventually scored (12), it was not expensive and Hick made amends soon after. However, in terms of the morale it was another drip in a well. just about filled with disillusionment.

With the second new ball almost due, Gough perked things up when he upended Matthew Nicholson on the stroke of tea, to take his fifth wicket of the innings. The delivery, a classic inswinging yorker that



ty and it begged the question, with the ball reverse swinging, why England ever opted to take the new one a few overs later.

They say you must use the new ball wisely in Australia and that means the second one as well. Sadly, England ignored this sage advice, at which point Waugh began his charge, the bugle sound being a particularly violent cross-batted slap to the cover fence off Gough, who apart from the indignity of some rough treatment from Waugh and the tail, had otherwise bowled im-

The long handle is not generally Waugh's style and it was a surprise

a hook for two off Gough. Apparently he hooks about twice a decade, in which case he has now used up his quota for this millennium,

Inspired by his vice-captain, Stuart MacGill, with a previous Test best of 24, suddenly began to play shots too. A No 9, when he last played for Devon six months ago, MacGill has improved to the point where he took 43 off England's new-ball attack, before nicking one behind off Mulially.

The damage had been done and with 88 runs being added for the ninth wicket - the highest partnership of the Aussie innings, and 18 runs higher than England's last seven batsmen could manage in the when he brought up his hundred with first innings - Australia had re-

gained the initiative. Perceived ad- started early at 10.30am, in order to a slight scowl on his face, Waugh went vantages are what Test cricket is all about and all of Australia would have leapt in delight when Atherton, surviving a plumb lbw appeal in Fleming's first over, was clean bowled the

Despite his recent promotion to opener, Stewart must be well used to losing quick wickets and he again went about his business unperturbed by the poor start. But if he played with the same purpose as he did in the first innings, the loss of Mark Butcher, to a bizarre dismissal just before a belated close of play at 7.21pm, would not have pleased him.

The late finish after play had

were together after a partnership of

missal left India at 112 for 3.

make up for time lost on the first day to rain, was unacceptable. With no front-line spinner in the side, the chief culprit was England's over-

rate, which was tardy in the extreme. Fortunately for Australia, their specialist spinner, MacGill, appears to have the golden touch. His dismissal of Butcher for 14, caught by Michael Slater after Butcher had lodged a full-blooded sweep shot into

his groin at short-leg, was freakish. Somehow Slater managed to cling on, though what he was clutching at as he reeled away was not at first clear. When he held up one ball rather than two. Butcher knew he

Despite the grim situation Tendulkar went on the offensive, hitting six fours and a six in his unbeaten 42. Third riay, India won toss (WDIA - First Innings 208 (M Azmaruddin 103; S B Doul 7-65)

NEW ZEALAND - First Incings (Overnight: 290 for 7)

S Sidhii Ibw b Douil S Dravid b Wiseman Part: 1-41 2-74 3-112.

Trappist monk bursts into song



BLOFELD IN MELBOURNE

IT IS not easy to imagine that any-one could have played a better in-nings than Alec Stewart on Sunday, but Steve Waugh managed to do so on the third day at the MCG. Waugh came in to bat when the pattern of the Australian innings had been set. He knew it was going to be the hard business of trench warfare rather than the glamour of flashing sword-play which was going to take Australia past England and into a lead which would be psychologically so important. Steve Waugh often seems a curmudgeonly fellow.

His emotions are almost always under the tightest control; there are never any frills about his batting; he does not waste time on midwicket conferences with his partner unless there is serious business to discuss. His batting is strongly disciplined, his mental approach is impregnable.

When he reached fifty, the crowd gave him a big reception. Waugh walked away a pace or two to leg and very quickly raised his bat, just once and briefly, giving the impression that he was almost irritated at what he probably saw as an unnecessary distraction. All he was interested in was maintaining his concentration. He had set himself a task and, come hell or high water, by was going to complete it.

His only problem was whether or not he was going to run out of partners but, at the end, he found a most reliable ADC in Stuart MacGill. Waugh might have been a Trappist monk on a particularly severe selfdenying ordinance. Pushes and deflections played with amazing precision and the odd push into a gap on the offside and always the brilliant running between the wickets and the impeccable defence with the invariably straight bat.

Every now and then when a half volley or a short ball wide of the off stump came along, he allowed him-self a measured drive which almost invariably went for four or a no-nonsense square cut which had the same effect. There was only rarely a hook, for that is a stroke he more or less gave up years ago. It got him out too often and once Waugh makes up his mind, he is unshakeable. Never a smile and always the impression of on and on. It was only as his hundred approached that his method changed Being the man he is, it surely was deliberate change of method rather than a frivolous change of mood.

The Englishmen were fighting desperately for those last two elusive wickets and Waugh suddenly decided he must get to his hundred quickly. Darren Gough was trying to bowl reverse swing and was pitching the ball up to give it every chance of doing so. Gough overpitched well wide of the off stump. For once, Waugh seemed to have a preconceived plan in his mind. His front leg went away towards a rather square midwicket, his back foot stayed where it was in the crease and, off balance but with a full flow of the bat, he somehow managed to hit the ball out of the managed to hit the ball out of the managed into the gap between wide managed to hit the ball out of the the ball ou off and cover for four. It was

astonishing and took him to 92. When he faced Gough in his next over, he needed just six more. Gough tore in and bowled a ball on a good length at middle stump and Waugh charged him and slogged him far over midwicket for four. It was a cow shot; the Trappist monk had burst into raucous song. Two more were needed, Gough bowled a bouncer, Waugh hooked at a ball high above his head - he would have needed to be standing on a step-ladder to control the stroke - and it skied to the left of Angus Fraser at fine leg. Waugh ran the first run like a demon and came for the second even faster and more furiously. And he made it.

The crowd stood as one man and yelled its appreciation. Waugh punched the air, waved his bat all over the place, took off his belined and looked for a moment as if he going to dance a jig. Then, in the nick of time, he remembered himself, looked rather ashamed, went back into his cell and got on with the business of building up Australia's lead.

W Indies founder as catches turn tide

TWO SENSATIONAL catches by Her- BY TREVOR CHARLES schelle Gibbs and a controversial take by the wicketkeeper Mark Boucher pushed the West Indies towards a third successive Test defeat by South Africa yesterday.

When bad light stopped play on the third day of the third Test here, the West Indies were 132 runs ahead but had only two second-innings wickets standing.

Their cause was undermined by the loss of five wickets for 13 runs. after their captain, Brian Lara, and Shivnarine Chanderpaul had given the troubled tourists hope of salvaging some honour from the series with a third-wicket stand of 160.

Gibbs started the slide when he dived full-length at square leg to hold a full-blooded pull to end Lara's innings on 79. He made an even better catch when he sprinted towards the boundary from midwicket and leapt to catch a mistimed pull by Dar-

ren Ganga left handed in mid-air. Between Gibbs' catches, Chanderpaul was caught and bowled by

West Indies 198 & 246-8 South Africa 312

Shaun Pollock for 75, six balls after Lara's fall, and Carl Hooper was out controversially. He got an inside edge to Pollock and Boucher flung himself to his left. The keeper indicated to Hooper that he had made a fair catch, but slow-motion television replays showed Boucher grounded

the ball as his glove hit the turf. Earlier, Franklyn Rose had completed Test-best bowling figures of 7 for 84 when he bowled Allan Donald to end the South African first innings. It was the best return by a visiting player in a Test at

Jonly Rhodes was caught and bowled by Couriney Walsh for 87 off the 10th ball of the day.

Donald had his own moment of triumph during the West Indian col-

South African, and the 20th player of all time, to take 250 Test wickets. Donald is playing in his 50th Test and only Australia's Dennis Lillee, who reached the milestone in his 48th, has achieved the total in fewer Tests.

With South Africa leading by 114 runs after the first innings, West Indies were quickly reduced to 41 for 2 before Lara and Chanderpaul came together in a blaze of attacking strokeplay. Lara showed touches of his best form as he lashed 15 fours off 139 balls while Chanderpaul hit 13 boundaries off 169 deliveries. The West Indies manager, Clive

Lloyd, stressed the need to make use of television replays after Hooper's controversial dismissal. He said: "Had Hooper stood there the umpires may have referred it to the third umpire, but he walked. Sometimes in those situations you don't know whether you've caught the ball or not. It's just one of those things, part and parcel of the game. But if you have the technology, you should use it to lapse when he became the first rectify these sorts of situations."

South Africa's captain, Hansie Crouje, was happy Boucher's actions were within the spirit of the game. "From where I stood and after watching the replays I'm still convinced he took the catch," he said. Third day, South Africa won toss

WEST INDIES - Flest Innings 198 (6 C Lara 51; J H Kallis 3-18, W J Crone 3-19)

Bag: Ambrose 17-1-60-0 (10mb), Walsh 29-6-(2nb), Rose 28-6-94-7 (1m, 1nb), Lewis 20--0, Hooper 4-0-18-0

D Lewis c Boucher b Donald Rose c Grobs b Pollock

J H Kalls 3-18, W J Crone 3-19) SOUTH AFRICA - First tunings (Overright, 292 for 8) J N Rhodes c and b Walsh A A Donald b Rose D J Ferbrugge not our Secress (bd. 108, wl. nb.13) Total (all our, 98 overs)

To bat: C A Walsh

WEST INDIES - Second
P A Walace c Boucher b Donald
I R Murray c Globs b Rails
S Chanderpaul c and b Politick
B C Lara c Gibbs b Terbugge ...
C Hooper c Boucher b Politick
D Ganga c Gibbs b Politick
B Ganga c Gibbs b Politick
Lacons nor part

Fall: 1-17 2-41 3-201 4-: 01 5-204 6-213 7-214

Unphres: D L Orchard (SA) and R B Titfin (Zim)

Tendulkar decides to take initiative for India

INDIA LED New Zealand by 35 runs India 208 & 179-3 at the close of play yesterday on the New Zealand 352 third day of the second Test in Wellington with seven second imnings wickets still in hand. Sachin Tendulkar, on 42, and Saurav Ganguly, 47.

67 that saw India to 179 for 3. New Zealand, after a record eighth-wicket partnership of 137 between Dion Nash and Daniel Vettori, were all out soon after lunch in their S B Douil Ibw b Kumble

Betras (bi 3, 2019, nbS)

Total (148.4 overs) first innings for 352, a lead of 144. With two days left, victory remains in Fall (cont): 8-345 9-352 New Zealand's sights, although Tendulkar and Mohammed Azharuddin, who made 103 in the first innings, are the main obstacles to overcome. Two of the three wickets that India

lost were due to impetuosity. Ajay Jadeja dragged the ball on to his stumps in playing a ferocious pull at To bet: "M Ashwoddin, IN R Moneys, A Kumble. I Schuth, Venhatesh Prasad. H Singh Nash and Rahul Dravid fell as he Bowling: Doub 12-4-76-7 (1nb), Cares 11-1-47-0 (2nb): Nash 6-4-7-1 (1nb), Vettori 10-7-44-0 (1nb) McMillan 6-2-14-9, Wiseman 8-1-38-1 charged at the off-spinner Paul Wiseman in his first over. His dis-Usapires: E A Nicholis (Wi) and E A Water (N/)

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On or off piste.

Rugby union becoming closed to the professions

HERE IS one wish for 1999. It is, I am afraid, little more than a wish, a pious hope, but it may be worth setting down all the same. It is that the administrators, the clubs' new owners. the players and the supporters. all come to some collective agreement that rugby union cannot and ought not to be a fully professionalised sport any more than rugby league is. or cricket should be, if that game's controllers could see further than their noses.

Some hope. The pride of should want to throw their much involved. I do not un-Nigel Wray and Chris Wright



too many people is by now too money away. They might just as well have a bonfire of fine old derstand why such figures as English banknotes in the back Sir John Hall, Ashley Levett, garden every Saturday night. This is evidently what they

the same reason, I suppose, prietorship gives them an importance, a position in society or so they hope - which they would otherwise not possess.

The prestige of leading players has remained unaffected by professionalisation. Indeed, in the Celtic nations it has no real modern equivalents of Barry John or Bleddyn Williams, Andy Irvine or Gavin Hastings, Mike Gibson or Willie John McBride, to name but a few. The supply of heroes has dried up. It is perhaps significant that England's one

that leads other people to want to own newspapers. Their prominious failure.

But unlike some commentators, I do not stigmatise the leading players of today, distinctly on the anti-heroic side though some of them may be, as "greedy." If the money is on offer, they are entitled to take probably declined. There are it. It is not they who have created a false market which depends on the beneficence of a few rich men, notably Rupert Murdoch and of various more shadowy figures at the BBC and in ITV.

One sadness is that rugby at the highest level is becoming

want to do, however, for much recent attempt to create a closed to graduates generally hero of their own in the person and, in particular, those who intend to follow the profession of medicine or the law. True, barristers have never been specially thick on the ground in top-class rugby, with a few exceptions such as Carl Aarvold of England and Rowe Harding of Wales. But there have been solicitors all over the place, like

moths in old books. The best known recent example was that unmoth-like creature, Brian Moore, Paradoxically, it was Moore who, more than any other player through his justified intransigence with the England authorities - saw in the new age. He was, if he will forgive the

though he had to abandon the medical laboratory technician) child on account partly of his advancing years and partly of his profession. He told me a year or so ago that it would be impossible for him, or for anyone, to be at once a practising solicitor and a professional rugby player.

The same applies to medical students or practitioners. In 1947 the England centres were two students from St Mary's Hospital Nigel Bennett and Keith Scott. They were succeeded by a greater player, Lewis Cannell, of the same hospital. Perhaps the last of the line was Mike Hutton, of Richmond, who was playing along-

metaphor, the midwife, even side Allan Bateman (a former in the centre only months ago but has now retired to con centrate on his duties at Kingston Hospital

If it had not been for his terrible injury, Gwyn Jones would still be playing. In a recent interview he said that if it had not been for the accident, he would have taken a few years off from his medical studies to concentrate wholly on rugby instead

Jones must be assumed to know his own business, and both his parents are doctors, too. But I very much doubt whether it is possible to take two or three years out of a medat the point at which you put it

Schoolteachers are in a better position to start life again because their course is shorter, and they can be qualified in their early 20s. Even so, to devote the rest of that decade of their lives to professional rugby leaves them behind those colleagues who had al-

ready started their careers. And will Dean Richards, the current manager of Leicester. ever go back to the beat? I wish him well. But I also know that many of his younger colleagues will be asking themselves "what do I do next?" once 34 hoves into view.

Devils off

top after

rare slip

at home

ICE HOCKEY

time at home to struggling

Manchester Storm took ad-

vantage of the Devils' shock col-

lapse, winning 7-2 at London

Knights to leapfrog their Welsh

Last season's champions. Avr

Scottish Eagles. needed over-

time to win 5-4 at home to Not-

tingham Panthers and Bracknell

Bees entertaining Sheffield

Cardiff had the advantage of

a 35-second goal from Brent

Pope and moved 2-0 up midway

through the game through

Steve Moria. But the Riverk-

ings, whose victory lifted them

off the bottom of the table, re-

duced the arrears through Dale

Jago in the first minute of the

final period and, with 53 sec-

onds left, Kevin Conway got the

goal that sent the game into

overtime, where Darren

McAusland grabbed the winner.

down after just over a minute in

London. They equalised

through Pierre Allard and went

4-1 up after 42 minutes through

Allard again, Darren Hurley

and Mike Morin. Shane John-

son pulled one back for Knights

but then three goals in six min-

utes from Jeff Jablonski, Dave

Morrison and Kelly Askew

Ayr picked up two important

points with their win over Not-

tingham with John Parco get-

ting the game winning goal in

overtime. Paul Adey (2), Mark Kolesar and Graham Garden hit Nottingham 4-2 ahead after

41 minutes but Ayr who had ear-

and Karry Biette battled back.

sealed it for the Storm.

Manchester Storm shrugged off conceding a Scott Kirton goal

Steelers, edged home 5-4.

Newcastle Riverkings.

rivals by a single point.

BY SIMON ROBERTSON CARDIFF DEVILS, the Sekonda Superleague leaders, were knocked off the top of the table on Sunday night when they surprisingly lost 3-2 after over-

Jacke comes up trumps for the Cards

THE ARIZONA Cardinals have not won a play-off game since 1947, have failed to win their division since 1975, and last qualified for post-season play 16 years ago. For much of their long but less than illustrious history they have come to embody futility and ineptitude. In this, their centenary year, things are inally changing because the Cardinals are through to the play-offs following an extraordinary 16-13 triumph over the San Diego Chargers.

The Cards were aware that destiny lay in their own hands - a win, and they were in. In typical Arizona fashion they made heavy work of it all, and the game appeared set for overtime when the San Diego quarterback, Craig Whelihan, threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to an Thelwell with just 16 sec-

er returned the en-Chris Jacke converted a 51- miss a kick all season. yard field goal to send the long-suffering Cardinals' fans into delirium.

Ironically, Jacke had earlier missed two far simpler attempts, but he seems to thrive ressure - this was the third week in a row that he had won a game with a kick in the dying seconds.

Arizona probably deserve their moment in the spotlight. Their promising young quar-

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

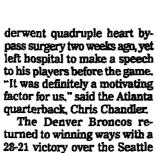
BY NICK HALLING

terback. Jake Plummer, showed glimpses of why the franchise has elected to pay him a staggering \$29.7m (£18.2m) over the next four years, while Kwamie Lassiter equalled an NFL record with four interceptions of the wretched Whelihan. On this evidence, Arizona's involvement in the post season will be terminated by the Dallas Cowboys, their opponents next week

It was another weekend of record-setting achievements around the league. The Minnesota Vikings became only the third team to win 15 games in a season with their 26-16 success against the Tennessee Oilers. Their kicker, Gary Anderson, successfully converted three neid goals and two extrasuing kick-off into San Diego point attempts to become the veteran quarterback, Vinny territory, and as time expired first player in history not to

> The Atlanta Falcons were too strong for the Miami Dolphins, prevailing 36-16. Running back Jamal Anderson gained 103 yards while establishing a new record for most rushing attempts in a season - the overworked Anderson finished with 410 carries, breaking a 16-year-old record.

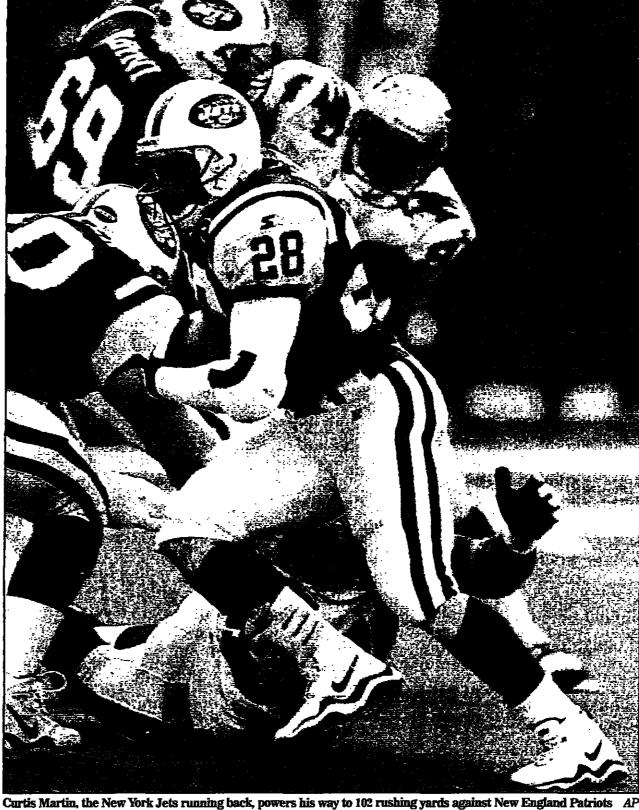
Once again, the Falcons were inspired by their ailing coach, Dan Reeves, who un-



Seahawks. Having won their first 13 matches, the current Super Bowl champions needed a win to settle their nerves after two successive losses. John Elway produced four touchdown passes, and running back Terrell Davis gained 178 yards, thereby becoming only the fourth player ever to rush for 2,000 yards in a season.

The Broncos remain favoured to retain their title, but stern opposition may come from the rejuvenated New York Jets. After losing their first two matches, the Jets have won 12 of their last 14, with the Testaverde, enjoying an unprecedented level of success. Testaverde threw four more

scoring passes in the Jets' 31-10 humbling of the New England Patriots to finish his campaign with 29 touchdowns. The off-season purge of coaches began yesterday when Dom Capers of Carolina Panthers, Dave Wannstedt of Chicago Bears, Ted Marchibroda of Baltimore Ravens and Ray Rhodes of Philadelphia Eagles were all fired.



Barbarians are out to restore their old image

was making a long-delayed apparance in Leicester this af-Proon in the cosmopolitan shape of 15 Barbarians, some and others rather less likely to have their progress through the East Midlands obstructed by autograph-hunfing youngsters. The traditional festive bash may have the word "anachro-

RUGBY UNION BY CHRIS HEWETT

was shifted unceremoniously to of them instantly recognisable an anonymous date in mid-March, today's proceedings are something of a triumph for Mickey Steele-Bodger and his fellow selectors.

At one time, it was easier to break into the Baa-Baa comnis" stamped all over it, but mittee's beloved East India Club without a tie than lay a

hand of one of the famous hooped shirts with which they have anointed the finest rugby talents in the world.

Sadly, the most famous invitation side of them all no longer command the same respect; not since 1995 has the annual Christmas match at Welford Road actually been played at Christmas and as a general rule the selectors now have to work overtime simply to raise a

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15 30 27,12 -5C Brighter

-2C Cloudy, mile

simo Cuttitta, Christian Stoica and the national captain, Massimo Giovanelli – are joined by a fistful of Scots, Craig Chaimers and Scott Hastings included, and Ireland's Eric Miller, who earlier this season left Leicester for the familiar comforts of home. In response, the Tigers include Martin John-

To their credit, they will put son, Austin Healey, Richard love it," said Johnson yester-Cockerill. Neil Back and, for something very decent before a 12,000-plus crowd this afterdessert as it were, a prop partnership of Graham Rowntree noon: three fine Italians - Masand Derek Jelley. Dean Richards, the coach, is said to be demanding a wobble-free scrummage.

"This fixture remains a big thing for me; I would have been 11 or 12 when I watched my first Baa-Baas game at Welford Road and I know how much the people of Leicester

day. "Certainly, I would resist any move to abandon the fixture. I think we have a duty to put out a strong team and to perform well because a lot of those coming to watch us play themselves and therefore rarely get a chance to take in a Premiership match. Both teams will move the ball and

hopefully, everyone will get a buzz out of it." There was not much in the

defeat by London Scottish began to kick in.

Kyran Bracken, the cup holders' international scrumhalf, will sit out the next three weeks with concussion while Alain Penaud, their French stand-off, is doubtful for Sunday's Premiership match with Bedford because of a "dead" leg.

lier led through goals from Jeff Hoad, against his former club. They scored twice in the last terday as the fall-out from last four minutes, through Dainius weekend's startling 24-7 home Bauba and Shawn Byram, to send it into overtime.

> Bracknell, with the Slough Jets netminder Richard Gallace deputising for the injured Brian Greer, came from behind three times to overcome Sheffield, who were 4-3 up after 41 minutes with goals from Teeder Wynne (2), Tony Hand and Ed Courtenay. The Bees hit back through Dale Junkin (2) and Chris Brant and after Sal Manganaro had equalised Pax-

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL

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MATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE EASTERN DIVISION 1 556 5 408 8 314 11 306 12 276 WESTERN DIVISION

BOXING Birmingham's Anthony Maynard is to challenge the defending champion. Billy Schwer of Luton, for the Eu-

ropean lightweight title at York Hall, London, on 16 January.

DARTS PDC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP s Tavern, Purfleet) First round: wn (US) bt K Spiolek (Eng) 3-1; C sike (Eng) bt D Allsop (US) 3-0; M

FOOTBALL Oleg Romantsev, the head coach of Russian champions Spartak Moscow, took charge of the national team for

the second time yesterday. He succeeds Anatoly Byshovets, who was sacked after five months in charge. FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Fluture changer Sun 21 Mar. Ason Villa v Chelses (from 20 Mar). ICE HOCKEY

craco 2. SERONDA SUPERLEAGUE (Monday): Ayr 5 Nortongham 4 (or): Bracknell 5 Sheffield 4: Cardiff 2 Newcastle 3 (or): London 2 Man-chester 7.

MOTOR CYCLING The former world motor cycling champion Ricardo Tormo died of

leukaemia on Sunday at the age of 46. Tormo won the 50cc world titles in 1978 and 1981.

RUGBY UNION JEMPSON NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE: Liverpool St Helens 15 Monthester 40; Raading 6 Henley 36; Rossiyn Park 15 Cambertey 6, Timo Nartas Numearon 61 Hinoldey 13; Sheffield 31 Sandal 9; Stourbridge 42 Whitchurch 19; Walsan 42 Linfield 13. Theo Souths Bradenell 39 Howare 13; Chetterham 16 Weston-5-Mare 30, Clifton 10 Bridgwater 22, North Wistham 13 Norwich 0; Plymouth 17 Redruch 25.

7 278 267 16 7 321 321 16 Mottingham ...14 6 0 8 258 258 12 Harrogate ...15 4 1 10 160 260 9 Morley14 4 0 10 212 340 8 Liverpoof St N 14 1 0 13 170 483 2 WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE Park Divi-sions Abertillow B. Mandada St Divi-sions Abertillow TENNENTS VELVET BOWL First Round: Leith Acads 3 Hillfoots 21.

Mike Golding of Team Group 4 has closed to within 140 miles of the Dass I leader. Glovanni Soldini, with 700 miles to go on the second leg of the Around Alone Race from Cape Town to Auckland. Marc Thiercelin and isabelle Autissier also reduced the gap, but fifth-placed Josh Hal is 1,000 miles behind Soldini. In the Class II race, second-placed Mike Garside is attempting to round the southern tip of Tasmania with Jean-Pierre Moligne clear ahead of him.

SKIING

MEN'S ALPINE WORLD CUP (Bormio, It) Downbill: Leading qualifying practice times: 1 H Mater (Aut) 1mm 56.20sec; 2 H Timik (Aut) 1:56.51; 3 C Greber (Aut) 1:56.56; 4 S Eberharter (Aut) 1:56.94; 5 D Cuche (Swit) 1:56.96.

ton Schulte scored the winner. TODAY'S

NUMBER

The number of non-white players, out of a total of 19, to win admission yesterday to South Africa's national cricket school, the Durban-based Plascon Academy. The 19 youngsters also include a fast bowler from Argentina.

SATURDAY'S LOTTERY UPDATE.

Draw date: 26/12/98. The winning numbers: **2,8,11,32,35,41**. Bonus number: **4.** Total Sales: £52.570,901. Prize Fund: £23.656.905 (45% of ticket sales).

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER			
Match 6 (Jackpot	, 1	£7,724,025	£7,724,025			
Match 5 plus bonus	ball 11	£216.056	£2,376,616			
Match 5	841	£1.766	£1,485,206			
Match 4	46.882	£69	£3,234,858			
Match 3	880,301	£10	£8,803,010			
TOTALS	928,036	}	£23,623,715			
	Wednesday Draw: £93,055,019.	Breakage (prizes rounded down to neares) £1), £33,19				

Maybe, just maybe. 😻 THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

n the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data conteined in Camelot central computer system shall prevai

Pearl's worth remains undiscovered

By GREG WOOD

THE TRUE message of Christmas as far as some punters is concerned is that Cheltenham is now less than three months' distant, and the festive spirit will soon give way to the Festival spirit as the three-day pinnacle of the jumps season draws ever closer.

It was certainly the only thought in anyone's mind for much of yesterday's Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown, as Florida Pearl threatened to produce a performance to rival that of Teeton Mill in Saturday's King George VI Chase. In the end, though, Florida Pearl was left sprawling on the turf at the third-last fence, and those who see him as an heir to Arkle can only wonder how the final furlongs might have unfolded.

Florida Pearl was still full of running as he and Richard Dunwoody approached the obstacle, but while his jockey saw a stride, the horse did not. Florida Pearl put his front feet down when they should have been up and over and Dunwoody had no chance of staying in the saddle. Dorans Pride. himself the focus of many Irish hopes at recent Festivals, was left to gallop home alone, although Paul Carberry, his rider, deserves great credit for surviving a blunder almost as desperate as that by Florida Pearl six fences from home. Suny Bay. the top-rated chaser in Britain. was a faller too, though he was thoroughly beaten when he came down at the second-last.

Opinions were divided afterwards, not least among the bookmakers, who offer odds ranging from 8-1 to 12-1 against Dorans Pride for the Gold Cup, a race in which he has finished third for the past two seasons.

Yet Florida Pearl's gallop appeared as effortless as it was relentless until his mishap, just as it did when he beat Escartefigue in the Royal SunAlliance Chase at last season's Festival. It was no surprise, then, to see him still quoted at a best-priced 5-1 for the Gold Cup, a point and a half behind the top odds about Teeton Mill. Bar those two, the odds are in double figures.

Florida Pearl's projected route to the Festival remains unchanged and he will race just hope. ride yesterday, said. "Going Hurdle, while To Your Honour

The grey Kendal Cavalier holds off Fiddling The Facts and Forest Ivory for a 14-1 success in yesterday's Welsh National at Chepstow

Robert Hallam

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FORM VERDICT

IH. 18TH MARCH

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1983 W. 2-STATE FOR THURSDAY

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DEPENDENT

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100 Mars

HARERION

into the third last, I was pleased and Nick Dundee will be major second-tier career as a jump that I had made the right choice." Dorans Pride, meanwhile, is not expected to run at all before the Festival but since he has now won 24 races and more than £500,000 in prizemoney, there is no reason for

his owner to be greedy. The Irish will also travel in pernaps even expecta-Gold Cup at Leopardstown in other runners at Leopardstown his jockey, but neither will com-February, before the main yesterday. Commanche Court, event on 18 March. "I was de- the Triumph Hurdle winner of lighted with the way Florida 1997, gave 10lb and an em-Pearl settled and was travel- phatic beating to Miltonfield in ling," Dunwoody, who aban- the Christmas Hurdle and will doned Dorans Pride to take the now be trained for the Stayers'

contenders for the Royal Sun Alliance Hurdle and Chase respectively. It was not Cheltenham but

Aintree which appeared on the horizon after the Welsh National at Chepstow, where Kendal Cavalier outstayed Fidding The Facts to win at 14-1. Afterwards, the grey was caked once, in the Hennessy Cognac tion, of victories from three in mud, just like Barry Fenton, plain if similar conditions prevail on Grand National day in

Kendal Cavalier was winning just days after changing stables, moving from Rod Millman to Nigel Hawke, whose

jockey included just one notable highlight, when Seagram won the National in 1991.

Three fences out, it seemed that Fiddling The Facts was going best of all, but Fenton and

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Joe Buzz lusselburgh 2.25) **NB: High Thyne** (Haydock 3.05)

Kendal Cavalier quickened past on the run to the second-last. and then held on grimly in the heavy ground. "I have got to give Rod the

cap, but he was suited by the trip, the ground and the track. He is not the quickest in the world, but he does keep galloping, and he might be a National norse. Earth Summit, who started 9-2 favourite, and Dom Samourai, another well-fancied run-

credit," Hawke said, "the horse

won four races for him last sea-

son, but he wanted a change of

scenery and it has done the job.

We were 13lb out of the handi-

ner, both ran poorly. The stewards were told that the former will be re-fitted with blinkers for his next run, although punters might wonder why they were left off yesterday.

Dom Samourai, meanwhile. never got into the race after missing the break, something for which the starter must take at least some responsibility. The feature event at Kemp-

ton, the Christmas Hurdle, was won in a canter by French Holly, whose trainer, Ferdy Murphy, paid for this Christmas. and probably the next iew as - markable afternoods of his ca well with a bet on his horse at reer. After winning the first the early odds of 11-4.

he got murdered when he did. Holly, but two more winners as It was a two-horse race and I well. thought 11-4 was unbelievable."

French Holly will run next in the AIG Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown as a prep for the Champion Hurdle, for which he is now the clear 7-1 secondfavourite behind Istabraq, who runs at Leopardstown today.

French Holly was partnered yesterday by Andrew Thornton, who had one of the most rerace at Kempton, he gave up his "I had my biggest bet," he next two rides, complaining said. "The other horse [Dato that he was "dehydrated and Star, the favourite] has only run had a bit of 'flu', before reright-handed once before and turning to ride not only French

"It's surprising what you



Fenton: Mud-spattered

can do with yourself," he said. But I'm fine now, I'm feeling on top of the world."

Stack's condition starts to stabilise

THE CONDITION of Tommy 1,000 Guineas of 1994 and Stack has reportedly stabilised although the trainer remains in hospital in Co Cork with a viral infection. One of Ireland's top trainers. Stack was taken into high point of his riding career hospital in a critical condition over the weekend.

A spokeswoman at Stack's Tipperary said: "The doctors are happy with his progress. There has been some improvement and his condition has stabilised."

lights of his career include the only two days ago he had been

Tarascon's triumph in this year's Irish 1,000 Guineas.

Stack was twice champion National Hunt jockey but the came when he steered Red Rum to the horse's record third Grand National win in 1977. Thomastown Castle base in Co

Cumbrian Challenge provided a shock for followers of

the form book when winning the Castleford Chase at Wetherby yesterday at 16-1 from Direct Route. The nine-year-old's per-Stack, 53, has held a training formances this season gave licence since 1986. The highvictory of Las Meninas in the beaten more than 30 lengths.

IT MAY say on the gate that BY GREG WOOD David Nicholson trains at Jack-

daws Castle, but to Adrian Maguire, his stable jockey, they must look more like vultures. Maguire's position with Nicholson has been the subject of sustained speculation over the past few days, and the man who both owns the yard and employs Nicholson and Maguire admitted yesterday that rumours of the rider's dismissal or demotion were a "mess" that needed to be sorted out.

Colin Smith, whose company, Ford Farm Racing, is ultimately in charge at Nicholson's stable, said that "Adrian and myself will be having talks in

Maguire in a 'mess'

the next few days, maybe this evening. But if Adrian jacks it in as stable jockey at the yard in the next few days over what's been happening - and I don't blame him if he does - there will be no retained jockey at the yard for the rest of this season and possibly next season as

Maguire's position at Jackdaws Castle is thought to be under threat from Richard Johnson, currently Nicholson's No.2 jockey. "If Adrian steps owners in the yard who will want him to ride their horses,"

Smith said. "Admittedly there are a few owners, such as Darren Mercer, who owns Escartefigue, and Roger Baines. who owns Zafarabad, who want Richard Johnson to ride for them. But that does not mean that Richard is the new No.1 jockey at Jackdaws Castle, or that he will be."

Speaking before setting out to ride Forest Ivory, who fin-ished third in the Welsh National at Chepstow, Maguire commented, seemingly only half in jest - that he had been "rung by a journalist yesterday down there are still plenty of morning who told me I was out of a job, so he obviously knows more than I do'

Suave Dancer killed by lightning strike

SUAVE DANCER, the brilliant share in the sire, said: "I am winner of the Prix du Jockey very sorry and touched by the Club and Prix de l'Arc de Tri- news. This horse gave me so omphe in 1991, has been killed much pleasure and success." by lightning in Melbourne.

and southern hemispheres. and half owned by the National Stud. Suave Dancer was found dead in his paddock on Christmas Eve. He had recently completed his breeding season in Australia and was in quarantine being prepared to return to Newmarket.

Henri Chalhoub, who owned Suave Dancer during his racing career and had retained a half

Suave Dancer was trained by A sire whose duties alter the Chantilly-based John Hamnated between the northern mond, who yesterday remembered Suave Dancer's racing qualities: "He had outstanding acceleration which he could switch on and switch off. One is always lucky to have a horse of that calibre." Among Suave Dancer's suc-

cessful offspring in Europe is this year's runner-up in the Solario Stakes, Compton Admiral, who is being aimed at the 1999

TOMORROW'S MEETING at Carlisle has been abandoned. Conditions at the track have deteriorated over the past few

days and the clerk of the nell, yesterday said: "There is course and it wasn't raceable before the snow came." Today's card at Mussel burgh is also under threat a

is subject to a 7.30am inspection. A course spokesman said: "The forecasters say that temovernight - then showers are any frost"

TAUNTON

HYPERION 12.50 Polar Champ 1.20 Rollcall 1.50 Top Skipper (nb) 2.20 Dragon King 2.50 Cento 3.20 Glaisnock Lad 3.50 Cassia

3 Course is S of town on 53170. Taunton station 2m. ADMIS-SION, Members \$11, Paddock £9; Centre of course £5 CAR PARK: Centro of course £3; remainder free. EI LEADING TRAINERS. M Pipe 41-204 (201%), P Hobbs 26-102 (255%), R Hodges 16-146 (11%), P Nicholis 10-65 (118%), EI LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 25-130 (19.2%), C Maude

14-85 (16.5%), M A Fitzgerald 12-62 (19.4%), T Dascombe 12-## FAVOURITES: 150-385 (38%). BLINKERSD FIRST TIME: The In-Laws (150).

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places).

12.50 HOLLY TREE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,500 added 2m 1f

40- JACKSON'S HOLE (239) (BF) F Nichols 5 to 12 N Williamson 0 JANESAL (7) R Hootyes 1 10 12 T Descontion 20 NAIGHAL (19) N Aydre 5 12 R Thornton 4 OTHER CLUB (19) J Perman 4 10 12 C Maude

- 16 Sectared -BETTING: 100-30 Polar Chestp, 7-2 Pertry HBI, 4-1 Yolds Mopple, 6-1 Running Man, 7-1 Gladisteur IV, 10-1 Jackson's Hole, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

GLADIATEUR IV put up a decent first British etfort when third here sartier in the month and though this is potentially a hot little contest, he could well find a good bit of improvement.

1.20 IVY NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) \$4,250 added 2m 3f 06-64 BLADE OF FORTUNE (20) (C) V Greenway 10 11 G .M A Fitograde

2	28-U12	TREMALLT (15) (BF) T George 7 to 9
3	D52F-1	ORIENTAL BOY (42) R Lee 6 tl 2 A Maguit
4	(3752	THE BARGEMAN (10) D Gandolfo 10 10 13 R Durawood
5	/P0-33	ROLLCALL (36) R Alrar 6 to 12
Ð	30P531	THE LADY SCORES (11) S Dow 6 10 10 Goldstein (
7	<i>6</i> ° 20	HIGHTOWN CAVALIER (19) (CD) R Hodges 7 to 10 . J Harris (
8	P3/4-4	ANOTHER HUBBLICK (55) A Baker 7 to 9 Y Statta
9	3P-F4F	DUNNICKS VIEW (24) F Tudger 9 to 6
10	F3 00	CHURCHTOWN CHANCE (12) C Popham 8 to 6 M Griffiths (
11	6/6265	MAY SUNSET (25) N Harris B to 5 B Power
2	46-440	SENSE OF VALUE (40) J Smith 9 to 4T J Murph
3	04104	REMEMBER STAR (25) A D Smith 5 13 4 G Supple (
		STEP IN LINE (12) A Frost 6 to 2
		- 14 declared -
BE	1 13NG: 7	-2 Oriental Boy, 9-2 Tremails, 5-1 Rollical, 6-1 The Sergeme
		to Common 4th 4 Maria Old Francisco Charles Labor 4th of the

FORM VERDICT

TREMALLT was let down by his jumping at a critical stage of his race at Plumpton last time, but is worth another chance.

	Orienta	li Bory Can give him (most to do.	
	1.50	HANGOVER HURDLE (G)	SELLING \$2,000 adde	HANDICAP d 3m 110yds
1		SHADIRWAN (19) (BF)		-
2	50-30 0	THE IN-LAWS (18) 0 S	Perviood 4 17 9	Osborne B
3		FABULON (FH) (20) M		
4	5P-453	TOP SKIPPER (12) V (GREENWAY 6 10 13	M A Fitzpenid
5	20-864	HOTSPUR STREET (19	# El. box 6112	
•				
e	DOM:	PARLO'S JET (19) (C)		
	THANKET	LACITY & SET (18) (C)	Project 3 N 45	
	man.	HANDSOME ANTHON	7 (27) (U) 17 Winds	7 10 8 14 Marsto n
6	06P-5	RIVER MULLIGAN (24)	N Hawke 6 10 7	A Thornton
9	02-5	FLICKERING LIGHT (1	9) Mrs. J. Hawkons 7	OD J Madee
10	F0-640	ROSEVEAR (10) S Me	ter 6 10 D	A Power
11	53-200	MUSIC CLASS (19) R	Below 7 93 fl	V Cartery R

Missing Music Constitution of the Constitution FORM VERDICT

Not many of these are either in any sort of form or guaranteed to stay, but TOP SKIPPER should be nearing his peak now and has solid claims. Handsome Anthony comes into 4 on his best form, but given his recent form over tences, Pable's Jet is probably a safer option.

2.20 CHRISTMAS PUDDING CONDITIONALS HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 2m 1f

	4 30:7-0 MUTANASSIB (13) NJ Popa 5 Ti 0
,	5 -32803 TIME FOR ACTION (34) (D) C Varn 6 to to
	6 053F- ATLANTIC MIST (F186) (CD) B R latiman 5 to 9 D Selts
	7 030353 DRAGON KING (10) (CD) C Berwel 6 to 0 L Curproin
	8 42/344 ALMAPA (15) (CD) FI Hodges 5 to 0 J Harri
	- 8 declared -
	Minimum: 10st. True handicap weight: Dragon King 9st 12th, Almaga 8st 9t
	BETTING: 2-1 Hay Dance, 3-1 Iranos, 9-2 Time For Action, 6-1 Dragon Kin
	8-1 Attartic Mist, 12-1 Almapa, 14-1 Added Dimension, Maganessib
	FORM VERDICT

3112! ADDED DIMENSION (664) (CD BP) P Writworth 7 11 1 J Mogland

ons to oppose most of these, but assuming IRANOS is on song, he may well carry too many gurs for these rivals

2.50 REINDEER NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (F) £3,200 added 2m 3f 110yds

2 0-0336 CENTO (28) Mrs S Williams 5 ft 7 R Dumenody B 3 POPF- UPHAM SURPRISE (332) J Col 10 ft 6 T J Marphy OP-2 QAKLANDS WOLF (25) ! Nevite 7 to 0

- 14 decipred -Makinsum weight: 10st. True handissp weight. Caldands 9st 1th. BETTING: 4-1 Granty Bell, 9-2 Mirristern, 5-1 Cento, 7-1 Water Flower. 10-1 Wentworth, Strongdeke, 12-1 Laughing Fortakist. The Booking Brief, Tengo's Delight, Standed. 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT GRANBY BELL may well be capable of better now that he has started to show a bit more and is preferred to up-and-

3.20 MISTLETOE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,500 added 3m SS-1-3 BEATSON (18) F Busias 9 2 0 D O'Sulfiven (7) 3255P- FOODBROKEN STAR (220) (D) 7 Needson B TI TI . L Aspell

•		career and had retained a n
5	12-P25	DEST OF HONOR (20) (D) (BF) A Lee to 11 6 A Maguire B
ß		MAGNETIC REEL (273) (D) H Lave 7 ft 6 R Waller
7	21-231	GLAISNOCK LAD (36) (D) R Ainer 6 11 1 A Thornto
8		COOLHEE (75) J King 10 to 13
9		AMERICANNAL (FR) (19) S Melor 10 10 10
Ð	F323#	SPACE CAPPA (33) (CD) Mas V Septians 10 1) 7 Miles V Septians
۲í		ALLO GEORGE (35) (D) A Newcombs 12 10 7, J R Kennesed
12		GRIZZLY BEAR (579) (BF) R Stronge 8 10 6 J Cultoty
ø		KOO'S PROMISE (26) C Popham 7 10 5 O McPholl (5
И		NO FIDOLING (562) G McCourt 7 to 4 E Husbard
15		WARNER'S SPORTS (12) (D) P Hobbs 9 to 4 R Widger (5)
16		FERWICK (14) (C) (D) R Hodges n 100
Me	STROM ISS	enta: 10st. Trus transferan wesete: Femiliek 9-J 17th

BETTING: 4-1 Glatenock Lad, 5-1 Bestson, 6-1 Magnetic Real, 7-1 Rep genecque, 19-1 Foodbroker Star, Debt Of Honox, 12-1 Koo's Process Gloi Beach, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Glaisnock Lad has been running consistently this form and should again give a good account of himself, but preference is for BEATSON. He turned in an encouraging effort on his return to action after a year's absence when third at Chellenham 18 days ago and is fancied to defy top weight

	and the state of t
3.	DONCASTER SALES MARES 'NH FLAT RACE (H) £1,500 added 2m 1f
1	1 CASSIA (25) (D) N Gaselee 4 Ti 7 D McPhail (5
2	ALICE SUMPISE S Knight 4 tl 0 Mr T Greek
3	CRACK SHOT J Nevile 4 11 0 K Williamson
4	0 DEXTRA STAR (17) R Ainer 4 ti 0 A Thomson
5	5 DOCTOR ROSE (29) R Budder 4 ti D B Powel
6	50- ELMSIDE (234) M Pipe 5 tt 0 C Maude
7	HUMARA G Edwards 6 11 0
a	0- PARISTGETON (234) P Chameron 4 TI 0
9	INTERPORT N Havio 4 ti 0 J Osborne
10	3 KENTRORD BUSY B (17) J Mulins 4 TI O. J Goldstein (9)
Ħ	0 ORCHID (SB) P Winkworth 4 st 0 Mogford (7)
12	OUR LOTTRE S Kraght 6 tt 0
13	0- WILLET WITCH (329) Miss V Szephens 4 11 0 Miles V Stephens
-	

- 13 declared -BETTING: 5-4 Cassia, 7-2 Elmside, 11-2 Kentland Busy B, 14-1 Our Lottie, 16-1 Doctor Rosa, 20-1 Imustgelon, Interporal, Orchid, 25-1 athers

FORM VERDICT

it takes a good one to defy a penalty in these races and it may be worth opposing Casala with ELMSIDE, who made an encouraging debut at Cheltenham in April only to deap-

Snow go * at Carlisle

course, Johnny Fenwicke-Clenhalf an inch of snow on the

peratures could get down to -2 forecast which should break

ANTE-POST UPDATE

	AMPION			,,	
Horse (Framer)	Coral	Was Hill	Ladbrokes	Stanley	Tot
latabraq (AP O'Brentri)	15-10	evens	11-10	11-10	114
French Holly (F Murchy)	₹-₹	7-1	6-1	7-1	10-
Washibe Sands (M Pipe)	14-1	16-1	2.1	2-1	
Blowing Wind (M Pipe)	15- 1	16-1	161	30-1	15-
Gray Shot (I Balding)	75-1	16-1	16-7		16
i'm Sapposin (H Powe)	16-1	20-1	<u>15-1</u>	<u> 16-1</u>	20-
Reliant (D Nicholson)	5 -1	20-1		20-1	20-
Date Star (J.M. Jefferson)	20-1	25-1	20-1	16-1	15-
Pridual (M Pipe)	Z-1		20-1	20-1	25-
Toto Thecate (D Notocon)		33-1	25-1	33-1	33-
	25-1 Date: the octob. plan	23-1	33-1	33-1	3-

1999 CHELTENH/ Home (Taire)	Coral		CHASE	(3m 2f 11	Oyds)
Techno Mill (Max V Williams)		May 144	Ladbrokes	Stanley	104
	11-4	7-2	5-2	3-1	7-2
Florida Pearl (## Modinshit)	5-1	9.2	92		
Cydor Malta (M Pipe)	8-1	81		41	
Dorage Pride (M Houngaryle)	12-1	<u>-</u>	<u>12-1</u>	9-1	10-1
Escandique (D Nichobox)			<u></u>	I Q-1	12-1
		14-1	14-1	12.1	10-1
Uneinteble Boser (Li Pipe)	2 0-1	12-1	10-1		
Sae More Business (P Nichols)	20-1	16-1		10-1	14-1
Suny Bay (S Sherwood)	15-1	20-1	<u> 61</u>	14-1	12-1
Separted Call (P Hurtoy)rit	20-1		20-1	16-1	20-1
		25-1	25-1	20-1	25-1
Steeping Clashing (T Encountry)	16-1	33-1	33-1 Contant Pacas	33-1	

LEOPARDSTOWN

1.15 AIB AGRI-BUSINESS DECEMBER FESTIVAL HURDE (Grade 2) £20,000 added 2m Penalty Value £13,750

997. Istabraq 5 t2 0 C F Swam 1-6 lav (A P O'Brien) 5 ran

1 de 11 in 150

FOOTBALL

Barnsley continue to prove there is life without Ashley

Ward as they made it three wins

Ward was apparently talking

terms with Blackburn Rovers.

ton Town. Geoff Horsfield

In the Second Division, the

BY RUPERT METCALF

HAYDOCK

1.05 Beau 1.35 Menshaar 205 Globe Runner

2.35 Nearly An Eye 3.05 Phar Echo 3.35 Linwood

OING: Soft, with heavy patches. EFOING: Soft, with heavy parches.

Atmost flat. oval course; steep fences.

Course is near junction of ASB0 and M6. Newton station 2m ADMISSION: County Stand 57: Tattersels 210; Newton Stand 55. CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 33-141 (234%), N Twiston-Davies 19-75 (253%), D Nicholson 12-59 (203%), Mrs M Reveley 11-66 (167%).

Nicholson 12-59 (203%), Mrs M Reveley 11-66 (167%).

Calculated the Access of Thermonochy 20-70 (286%), C Liewellyn 13-55 (236%), C ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody 20-70 (285%), C Liewellyn 13-55 (236%), C

Maude 11-45 (244%), A Maguire 11-46 (239%),

FAVOURITES: 121-314 (385%)

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: High Thyric (305), Shared Risk (335).

1.05 EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,866

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Beau: Half-brother to Beau Ranger. Won on huxdling debut at Newton Abbot and ran really well under his penalty in hot race at Chettenham 2m 11, good) going down by 1 1/2 lengths to All Goog (rec 5b) after leading till before the test. Clear Stides: Probably in need of race when 181 3rd of 9 to Certish Kesth at Windsor 2m, good), McCoy booked but probably one for the huture Elearonal. Last in Hexham NH Flat race in March on only start Grand Goustier. Bith 271 by Kadou Nonantais (gare 14b) at Bangor (soft) and 21 by Polez Prospect (gave 18b) at Chepstow (heavy) lest spring. Dropped our quickly after hit 3 out in race won by All Gong at Chettenham and pulled up on reappearance Karzhang: In need of race, prominent for a long way before tasied off behind Mazileo at Luciow (good) last month. Would have to improve a lot Southerndown: Sold out of Trevor Walfs stable for 10,000 gns since failing to stay 3m at Worcester in June. Previously 6 lengths 2nd to Karalworth on same course (2m 4f) Splendid Metodry. Won insh moth point-to-point early this year. In lead bhefty 4 out before taxing kno 5th behind Kingenne at Newcastle (2m 4f, soft) last time. Stable in form Time. After Thythe: Showed a little promise on hunding debut at Newcastle (2m 4f, soft) in race won by McHattle.

Tomogo: From same tamby as Nodiorm, won Ayr bumper in April and 4th of 21 to Time. Of Fight in similar event at Newcastle (2m, soft) on reeppearance. Hurding debut Wranget: Favourite but soundly bealen in Newcastle bumper on debut last January. Not seen out stree.

Millenkum: No sign of ability on 3 starts to date VERIDICT: Many of these are bred as if they would prafer a longer trp, but the testing ground should make it a lest of stamina anyway. BEAU is hard to oppose on his
sound form though a bold showing can be expected from Grand Gousies. Clear Sides
be best watched today while Tonoco is an interesting newcomer to hurdles.

1.35 CONGLETON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £4,879 – 5 declared – BETTING: evens Cherokee Chief, 6-4 Menahaar, 7-1 Clavering, 10-1 Blaster Watson

FORM GUIDE Charokee Chief: 8tn 5 lengths by Weish March (rec 2lb) in hop over this trip at Ban-gor (soft) lest time, and ran well on only other start since winning by 6 lengths from Skycab at Falkenheam (good). The one to beat Menatheam: Justified short price when winning 5 lengths from Mr Francipani over this trip at Newcastle (soft). Stable in form and fooks main danger

MUSSELBURGH

12.25 Mr Lurpak 12.55 Naviasky 1.25 Ardrina

1.55 Farceur Du Mesnil 2.25 Joe Buzz 2.55

INSPECTION: 7.30am

INSPECTION: 7.30am
GOING: Good (Good to Firm in place).

Right-hand oval course with tight turns.

Course is 5m E of Edinburgh on A1, Bus link from Edinburgh station 5m. ADMISSION: Cub £12; Tattersalls £6 (OAPs and unemployed £3), Accompanied under 16s free. CAR PARK:

rree. E LEADING TRAINERS: M Hammond 22-116 (19%), J Howard Johnson 20-98 (20.4%), P Monteith 15-79 (19%), C Parker 9-

Johnson 20-50 (44-5), 44 (20.5%), A Dobbin 14-44 (20.5%), P. Fadhing JOCKEYS: P Carberry 15-53 (28.3%), A Dobbin 14-52 (15.2%), P. Niven 13-54 (20.3%), B Storey 12-117 (10.3%), IR FAVOURITES: 106-256 (14.4%), BLINKERED 14 TIME: Prince Minata (12.55), Shanagarry (2.55), Donna's Dancer (visored, 155). Minata (12.55), Shanagarry (2.55), Donna's Dancer (visored, 156).

12.25 BUBBLY JOCK MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) \$3,500 2m 4f

- 8 declared BETTING: 9-4 Oh So Cosy, 5-2 Northern Union, 11-4 Mr Lurpak, 12-1
20-1, 20-1 Son Ot Yempo, Three Lakes, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT

A weak race which should be dominated by stablemates NOFTH-ERN UNION and Oh So Cosy. The former is likely to have too much pace for his traviling campanion

Shanagarry 3.25 Lucie's Boy

Blaster Watson: Disappointing when pulled up in race won by No More Hassle at Huntingdon (good) last month Previously going well in lead when sloped on landing and left 3 out on chasing debut in race won by Caddy's First at Market Rasen (soft) Charifle Foxford: Bealen and lived when fell last at Ayr (good to soft) in race won by Wynyard Kright. Previously weakened only run in when 19 lengths 4th to Kadou Nonentals at Untraceter (2m, soft). Now a doubtful numer. Clarketing: Not a fluent jumper. Behind Damza at Catterick on last 2 starts running better race when 3rd, bith 1 3/4 lengths on penultimate start (2m hop ch. good)

VERDICT: CHEROKEE CHIEF looks the soundest bet here though Menahaar appears to be on the upgrade and his stable is in form. Blaster Wallson is probably better than his form figures indicate.

2.05 RACING CHANNEL ON TELEWEST HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,500 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,896

FORM GUIDE

Planberley Pisca: Finished last season in good form over tences and one time far hurder in Ireland. Has gone back to his old habit of digging in his toes at the start this campaign and impossible to assess

campaign and impossible to assess. Vent D'Aout: Ended her Jurella season with a very good 6th of 25 to Upgrade in the Triumph Hurdle at Chettenhem. Roced prominently for a long way before weakening in the home straight on her reappearance in a valuable handicap at Sandown on her reappearance. Likely to do better today. Baldkar: Traned by D Nicholson tast season and made winning reappearance in 3-horse race at Wetherby on reappearance. Up with the pace till weekening 2 out in race won by Alpine Partitler at Bangor last time. Globe Rutinier: Running consistently this season and well clear of the rest when close 2nd to Jamaican Flight at Market Resen (heavy) last time. Should not well again. Cap it if You Can: Winning form in treland last season. Well beaten on reappearance here but made good ground into the home straight before weakening quickly 2 out

VERDICT: Many Trumph horses struggle in their second season over hurdles but VENT D'AOUT does not appear to have a great deal to beat, ran well for a long way on her reappearance, and her stable's record here is peerless. Globe Rumner has solid form and looks the one to beat, though who knows what might happen if Plan-berley Place consents to take part

2.35 HAYDOCK PARK SPONSORSHIP CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (C) £7,000 added 2m Penalty Value £5,086 - 3 declared

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Monaughty Man 6st 11th. BETTING: 4-5 Nearly An Eye, 5-4 Barmageera Boy, 50-1 Monaughty FORM GUIDE

Nearty An Eye: Former point-to-pointer, who has been raised 34b since the start of the season. Completed a five-timer by 6 lengths at Uttoweter last time and has a bright chance of continuing his winning run. Bernageera Boy: Disappointed on his first 2 outings, but came back to form when just holding on by a hid over this trip (soft) last time. Burs off a 5to higher mark and is up against a tough opponent. Monaughty Men: Third place pinze money is the best he can hope for if the other 2 complete. Talled off from the 8th when last of the 5 finishers behind Barnageera Boy here. Best 2 finishers when winning his only race to date at Ayr in 1955.

VERDICT: The course seems to suit Barnageera Boy, who recorded his second course and distance win this month, but he receives only 75 from NEARLY AN EYE. Paul Nichols: seven-year-old has won so of his seven races since graduating from point-to-points and his latest success suggests there is still improvement to come.

3.05 MONK'S HEATH NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS

L		U) £5,000 added 3m Penaity Value £3,794
1		MENELLA DÉREY (13) (B C Kiby) P Nichols 8 ff 10
2	1-2202	SCOTTON GREEN (13) (D) (Scotton Developments) T Easterby 7 II 0 L Wyer
3	300050	SCRAHAN CROSS (59) (D) (Mrs J Magner) JJ O'Neil 5 to 9 R McGrath
4	37-EF	PHAR ECHO (34) (D) (BF) (S H C Racing) L Lungo 7 to 4
5	1313-P	KENTUCKY GOLD (13) (D) (Halewood International) Mrs L Williamson 9 TO 4 S Wymne
6	11-352	SANTA JET (31) (D) (G P Edwards) G M Moore 7 10 0
7		HIGH THYNE (29) (D) (The Net Partnership) P Hobbs 7 10 0 C Llewellyn B
8	2-PPP4	FOREVER DREAMING (14)(D) (Mrs M Hereon/Mrs P Newland) 5 Mellor 7 10 0 . D Leathy
9	5-2FF3	KIBBY BANK (34) (J Henderson (Co Durtam)) J H Johnson 9 10 0 O Bustons (5)
1	F3-042	SINGLE SOURCING (29) (G Harrow) A Whitans 7 to 0
۲	32244-	ALASKAN HEIR (218) (SF) (J Burton) A Streeter 7 10 0
z	2 D468P5	CHIXALL CROSSETT (17) (Mrs K Woodhead) E Carne 13 10 0
τ	6BP030	CREGG ROSE (12) (Mrs & Woodhead) E Caine 8 10 0Mr C Rae
		- 13 declared -

Minimum 10st True weignte: Sansa Jet 9st 12th, High Thyrie 9st 11th, Forever Dreaming 9st 10th, Kloby Bank 9st 9th, Single Sourcing 9st 8th, Alestien Her 9st 4th, Oursill Crosset 8st 9th, Cregg Rose 7st 13th. BETTIMS: 114 Ministle Detry, 7-2 Phire Ecite, 4-1 Scotton General, 8-1 Santa Jet, Bershen Cross, 12-1 High Thyrie, Klibby Bank, 16-1 Kentucky Gold, Single Sourcing, 20-1 others

FORM GUIDE

حكذا من الاصل

Minette Derby: Promising novice hunder in 1996-7, though ran out once. Missed last season, but has shown he retains his ability in 2 outings over tences. Scotton Green: Staying hunder, who has taken quite well to fences apart from a deappointing effort at Wetherby this month. Looks tartly well treated on his first outing in a handican over feroes.

a handicap over fences Scrahan Cross: hish point-to-point winner (heavy), but still a maiden under Rules. Hes Scrittian Cross: Irish point-to-point winner (heavy), but still a maiden under Rules. Hes been running over 2m in treiend, but stays well and will be suited by this step up in trip. Phair Echo: In touch when he tell 5 out (blinkered first time) at Heicham lest month, but was 2m to the useful Scotle Nostra at Ayr (2m5f) before that. On a lower mark train he won off over hundles. Kentucky Gold: Point-to-point and hunter-chase winner. Front-runner, who is at his best when the mud is flying. Pulsed up 2 out on his reappearance at Bangor this month and will find things hander in handicaps.

Santa Jet: Won twice over fences lowerds the end of lest season on lest ground. Acts on the going, but is on a 6th higher mark than he won off at Ultimater (2m5f) in May and this this will rest his attention.

on that going, but is on a 6th higher mark than he won off at Uttoweer (amon) in way and this trip will test his stamina. High Thyne: Irish point-to-point winner (soft), but has failed to shine in 2 runs over fances this season. Binkered first time and will stay well as he is a brother to Samlee Forever Dreamling: Placed over hurdles and fences last season. Pulled up on his first 3 outings this term, but showed a little promise when moderate 4th at Hereford (Smiff) Kibby Bank; Promising 2nd to Master Beward on reappearance in October, but fell on his next 2 outings. Stayed on to take 3rd at Hestnem last month, but has been raised 5th Single Sourcling; No chance with the wrinter when staying on to finish 2nd to Birkdale at (isso (2m6), heavy) last month. Held by Pher Echo on their running behind Sentia Mostra at Aur beigne that

Scotia Nostra at Ayr before that Alaskan Helir: Cute consistent in handicap chases last season, but has not run since May and his last success was in a handicap hurdle in 1995 Quissall Crossest: Has virtually no chance of warning a race of any description and 25th out of the handican. Certain to extend his losing sequence to 82 Cregg Rose: Stablemate of Quosal Crossett (is actually rated 4b lower) and seems a chip off the old block. Tailed off on her last 3 outings and has no prospects

VERDICT: PHAR ECHO was going equally as well as the winner when he fell five out at Hednam lest month and the blinkers he wore for the first time that day have been dispensed with. He jumped well enough when second to Sootia Nostra at Ayr before that and the wrinner gave the form a boost when following up at Carlisle from Menshaar, who also won next time.

3.35 WINSFORD NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £2,997

10 declared Münmum weight: 10ct. Time handicap weight. Paid Maid 8st 0b.
 BETTING: 5-2 You're Agoodum, 3-1 Rookzilfile Gossip, 4-1 Limwood, 5-1 Time Mission, 10-1 Valigum, 12-1 Jabinu, Owtabastim, 14-1 Teal Bay, 20-1 others

FORM GUIDE Rockcliffe Gossip: Consistent, though looks to have plenty to do in his first run in a handicap. Will be sured by step up in trip as he lacks a turn of loot. True Mission: Fell in his only point-to-point in March, but won over 3m at Worcester (heavy) last mornth on only his 2nd outing under Rules. Has scope for improvement Owtabeattim: Made all to win a novice hundle (2m4t, heavy) at Carlisle last month. Kept on at one pace when 4th over 2m71 at Wetherby next time.

Valigam: No stamma doubts as he won over 3m31 at Sedgefield (g/s) last month. Beat-

Valigam: No stamma doubts as he won over 3m3f at Sedgefield (g/s) last month. Beeten 3 out when 7th at Newcastle (2m) ment time and more to do here
fleat Bay: Signs of ability on her last 3 runs over hurdles, notably when 3rd to Kibnde
Lad at Chepstow in April (2m4f). Staying on when fell 2 out at Uttoester last time
You're Agoodium: Has shown agris of temperament and Tony McCoy rides him to
the first time since he ran out at the first at Eveter in October Cepable of winning this
Jabins: Did not appear to stay the trip (3m) when 5th at Newbury last month. Placed
twice in nonce hurdles before that, but has yet to prove he is suited by soft ground
Shared Rilate Missed last season, but was quite a promising novice in 1996-7. Little
show in 2 outings this season and is bifixered for the first time
Linwood: Bumper winner in 1996-7 and has nin 2 promising races over hurdles this
season. Led until 3 out when 3rd at Ayr (2m4f) lest time and is bred to stay farither
Plaid Mislet: Lightly raced mare, who is 44b out of the handicap.

VERDICT: Rockcliffe Gossip, a helf-brother to Marrello, needs a lest of stamma and tacides this distance for the first time. He has plenty of weight on his first run in a hand-icap, however, and may not be able to give 19th or LINWOOD. She rallied to firish thrid after being headed three out at Ayr lest time and though her future will be over tences she does not look badly treated on her first run in a handicap.

favourable mark, is also expected to confirm latest placings with Hunting Stene, the unproven stayer My Shesendoch and the out-of-form Blooming Spring.

2.55 COL W L M MONTEITH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 added 3m

FORM VERDICT

There are possibilities about well-handicapped Shamagarry In first-time binkers, but MASTER BAVARD, despite a chequered pest, looks more reliable. He is a progressive type and his proven stamina earns him preference over old rivel Adamatic.

3.25 SAIR HEAD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) \$2,000 2m

FORM VERDICT

Newcastle form points to SUPREME FORTUNE, who should confirm his superiority over Native Affair, despite the likelihood that conditions will be less ideal for him this time.

Francis's delight at comeback

TREVOR FRANCIS, the Birmingham City manager, knew all about the dangers of Gigg Lane, but watched his side enhance their Premiership credentials with a handsome 4-2 victory at Bury yesterday.

in four games in which the The Blues are now third in the Nationwide League First striker has been suspended Division. They slipped behind with a 1-0 victory over Queen's to a Laurent D'Jaffo goal but Park Rangers. Craig Hignett hit fought back through Paul Furan 81st-minute winner, while long, who scored twice, Martin O'Connor and Dele Adebola. Then D'Jaffo collected his second from the penalty spot five leaders, Fulham, were held to a I-1 draw at lowly Northampminutes from time.

Francis said: "I think when vou come to Bury you know what to expect. Out of their 28 points, 24 have come at home. They are very strong. But after the early setback of the goal, which really rocked us, we came back strongly and I was pleased with the performance."

Francis also praised his strike force. "Adebola, [Peter] Ndlovu and Furlong playing together will always be a problem and in the second half they ran riot," he said. "It's great to be up there in the league."

Bradford City are now fourth after their eighth victory in 12 games at Valley Parade, as goals from Robert Blake and Lee Mills, with his 15th of the season, earned a 2-0 win over Tranmere Rovers.

In a Yorkshire derby at Bramall Lane, a 90th-minute winner from Michael Twiss, who is on loan from Manchester United, allowed Sheffield United to beat Huddersfield Town 2-1. A Kevin Gray own goal in the 49th minute gave the Blades the lead before a Marcus Stewart penalty 22 minutes later set up Town for a point - until the late intervention from Twiss.

Nou Camp Gullit in unsafe say chase for experts

dium, the venue for the European Cup final in May, is unsafe for major sporting events, according to architects quoted in the Spanish media yesterday.

A letter from the Barcelona Institute of Quantity Surveyors and Architects to the club on 15 December, and obtained by the sports newspaper AS, set out their concerns.

guered manager, Ruud Gullit. is stepping up his efforts to

Although the Magpies have quashed speculation that the Gateshead-born Nottingham Forest midfielder, Steve Stone. could be on his way to St James' Park, the Dutchman is believed to be planning a multimillion pound raid for Ronald de Boer and Didier Domi.

The £3m capture of Domi, the Paris St-Germain full-back, is apparently imminent, while De Boer would signal a major coup for Gullit, who tried to sign Ajax's Dutch international on ioan until the end of the season when he arrived at Newcastle.

"Something good is happening," Gullit said. "I can't sav yet. But we have made a breakthrough in the transfer market. Ive worked hard this week and agreed a fee for a player, I hope I'll be able to announce something very soon, but it is now down to a medical."

Everton's French striker Mickael Madar has signed an 18-month contract with Paris St-Germain, according to reports in Paris. Nottingham Forest are

mourning the death of their former manager, Matt Gillies, who was at the City Ground from 1969 until 1972. He was 77.

is worry for future

EAST'S WITHDRAWAL from the women's under-21 regional tournament starting at Milton Keynes today may be seen as the thin end of the wedge as far and Midland's captain, being as the possible ending of this competition although East president, Mrs Ann Cunningham, has stated that it is only for this season. The decision appears to have been taken on financial grounds and on their dislike for the time of the year

England's Under-21 coach.

Even more of a shame is the absence of all but one of the girls in the England National Duff, Loughborough Students competition.

scored his 13th of the season, and his fifth in a Fulham shirt following his recent move from Halifax, but the Londoners were forced to settle for a point when Chris Freestone struck a 68th-minute equaliser. Brentford cut Cardiff City's

Francis: Blues' boom

lead at the top of the Third Division to four points by beating the Welsh side 1-0 at Griffin Park. Hermann Hreidarsson's winner lifted the west London side up to second place - and they have two games in hand.

De Boer

BARCELONA'S NOU CAMP sta- NEWCASTLE UNITED'S beleastrengthen the squad.

The problem at Nou Camp is

aluminosis, the deterioration of the main metal used in the construction of many modern stadiums. "We confirm that structural elements (of the stadium] have an advanced state of aluminosis, so much so that the strength of the structures is weakened by 30 to 40 per cent," said the letter. "It represents a danger whenever there is a public congregation or an event of national or international interest," they added.

The European Cup final is on 26 May at Nou Camp and, with much of the organisation already completed, Uefa, European football's ruling body, is apparently unwilling to move it from the Catalan city. The 58,000capacity Montjuic Olympic stadium in Barcelona is reported to be on standby if repairs to Nou Camp, which could cost as much as \$3.5m (£2.1m), are not com-

Withdrawal by East

the tournament is played.

Claire Harvie, who offered to organise the squad on hearing that they were pulling out, said: 'It's a great shame for the East girls to miss this opportunity of playing before Peter (Nicholson, the head coach) and myself."

HOCKEY BY BILL COLWILL

the exception. Nevertheless, competition is likely to be fierce as Midlands

defend their title. A strong squad, led by medical student Sally Wright from the Premier League Doncaster club, this afternoon start proceedings against the South with the North v West game following. The South squad, largely se-

lected from the Universities. could lack National League experience and Clifton's keeper Beth Storry could be busy.

Tomorrow's last game between North and Midlands could decide this season's trophy. In addition to Duff. North include Bradford's Sandeep Development squad, Joanne Kaur impressed in last year's

LINGFIELD

1.15 Polly Mills 1.45 Tear White 2.15 Martha Reilly 2.45 Meteor Strike 3.15 Rayik 3.45 THAT'S LIFE (nap)

Ave.

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alte (arlis

GOING: Standard.

STALLS: 5l/m - outside; remainder - niside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers usually best up to 7f.

If Lett-hand course, Equitrack surface.

If Course is SE of Lown on B2028, Lingfield station (served by L.Q., on, Victoria) adjoins course ADMISSION: Club £13, Family Cooure £10 CAR PARK: Club £3; rest free.

If LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore 92-723 (£276.) If Johnston Early Letter Landing TRAINERS: G L Moore 92-723 (£276.) If Johnston Early Letter Landing TRAINERS: G L Moore 92-723 (£276.)

no (177%). A Hannon 52-413 (126%). Lord Huntingdon 50-247 2010-0) BLEADING JOCKEYS: J Weaver 83-397 (209%), A Clark 79-872 (118%), L Dettori 77-334 (231%), R Cochrane 69-400 (173%), B FAVOURITES: 791-2388 (331%) BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

1.15 GOLF & RACING NURSERY HANDI-CAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 2YO 5f | CALP M (CLUS) | 22,700 actue | 10 | 55.211 A

- a cocarret -BETTING: 5-2 Lady Caroline, 3-1 Polty Mills, 4-1 Adelphi Soy, 5-1 Avon-dale Girl, 7-1 College Blue, 8-1 Thomaby Girl

FORM VERDICT

Five furlangs round here looks ideal for LADY CAROLINE (rep), who can repeat her front-running success of last week despite

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being 8th worse off with runner-up Polity Mittle. Top-weight Adel-phil Boy has done well on the Fibresand and has to be feared if he can reproduce that level of form on this different surface 1.45 FURLONGS & FAIRWAYS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 5f

12.5 BLETHER NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 2m

ALBRIGHTON (F122) F Murphy 10 2 Mr J P Michemers (5)
0 ELEGANT FAN (ISSA) (62) W Storey 10 22 Mr J P Michemers (5)
0 ELEGANT FAN (ISSA) (62) W Storey 10 22 Mr J P Michemers (5)
1 NAVIASKY (52) W Muir 10 12 Mr J P Michemers (7)
1 Received Michemers (7) Mr J P Michemers (7)
1 Received Michemers (7) Mr J P Michemers (7)
1 ROVERETTO (27) Mrs M Reveley 10 12 Mr S Storage (7)
1 ROVERETTO (27) Mrs M Reveley 10 12 Mr S Storage (7)
1 ROVERETTO (27) Mrs M Reveley 10 12 Mr S Storage (7)
1 ROURS ELESSINGS (F11) Mrs A Swrtzanh 10 7 J Supple
1 LOTBURN LASS (129) W Arrus 10 7 Mr Foster
1 MEMPHIS DANCER (F75) Miss L Russell 10 7 Mr Gotter
1 SECOND TERM (15) W Storey 10 7 Mr J James (7)
2 STELLISSIMA (21) L Whoods (R) 10 7 Mr M Bradhame (8)
1 P40U TOTAL TROPX (46) Mrs S Bradhame 10 7 Mr M Bradhame (8)

- 13 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Roveretto, 11-4 Polo Venture, 3-1 Naviesky, 10-1 Albrighton, 12-1 Stelliestma, 14-1 Prince Alineta, 20-1 Memphis Dancer, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT Neither of the Insh-trained pair have much to recommend them, and it should pay to concentrate on the Blety market leaders Navisaky, Polo Venture and ROVERETTO. The least exposed

1.25 RUSTY NAIL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m

- 6 declared -BETTING: 4-7 Andrina, 11-2 Jossolie, 6-1 Manhattan Reinbow, 8-1 Mr Cavalio, 16-1 Keep Clear, 33-1 Smiddy Lad

FORM VERDICT

Archina and JESSOLLE are expected to dominate. The for-mer is probably best succused her odds-on failure last time (un-suitable ground), but it is debatable whether this sharp course

ecally with regard to the Flati, the last-named

~ 10 declared ~

BETTING: 3-1 Sue Me, 7-2 Tear White, 5-1 Ajig Dencer, 13-2 Multarrab,
7-1 Polar Mist, 8-1 Ivory's Grab Hire, 10-1 Tancred Times, 14-1 others FORM VERDICT

Top weight Tear White should make a bold bid to add to his all-the-way win here 10 days ago, but on 6to better terms 4 will be no surprise if MUKARRAB can turn the tables. David Chap-man's gelding looked a natural on Equatack when winning ear-lier in the month and there is better to come from him on this

2.15 TEES & STALLS SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) \$2,500 added 2YO 1m

9 030204 ZOLA POWER (10) B Pearce 87 Martin Dwyer 9

- 9 declared BETTING: 11-4 Zula Power, 4-1 Martha Reity, 5-1 Hrst Forey, 6-1 Mis-print, 7-1 Mayfair Bellerium, 10-1 Magic Memories, 12-1 Questuary, 14-1 Burtons Folly, Espril Du Coeur FORM VERDICT

An unrespiring seller in which the betting could well be signifi-cant with both Burtons Folly and Questisery teiding a drop in class for their AW debuts. However, MARTHAR RELLY showed a bit more dropped into a dealine lest time, has e similar chance to Zola Power on a line through Magique Etoile and may be able to take advantage of this further lowering in grade.

will see her to best adventage. Jessolle, who jumped quite tid-ly at Bangor, is expected to do much better on this ground. Nicky

Richards' team has been very quiet, but the signs are reason

1.55 BUBBLY JOCK MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,500 added 2m

47

204F BT O MAGIC (208) R Alan 6 TI 0 ______ A Dobbin
DONNA'S DANCER (18) Mrs A Neutrion 4 TI 0.... Supple V
2 FARCEIR DU MESNIL (14) K Morgan 5 TI 0 _____ A S Smith
4 #0LP PLEASEDASPUNCH (242) (D) Mrs J Storey 6 TI 0 ... B Storey
6 P. SEMISTER (317) C Parter 6 TI 0 _____ B Storey
7 0P: SEMISTER (317) C Parter 6 TI 0 _____ B Storey
9 0- SIGNAL POINT (385) O Lemb 7 TI 0 ... ____ Burter
7 0P: BLACK BOOK (258) E Elicat 5 TI 0 _____ GF Ryan (1)
8 00-650 HEAVENLY THOUGHT (14) Mrs D Thomson 7 TID B... D Parter
8 declared BETTING: 2-7 Farosur Du Missnil, 5-1 Bit O Magic, 14-1 Heaventy Thought,
16-1 Black Book, 33-1 of hers

FORM VERDICT

it is difficult to get away from the lively hotpot FARCEUR DU MESNIL, who gave the impression that he retains a good deal of the ability he showed on the level when making his jumping

2.25 LARGE DRAM HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,500 added 3m

- / Decarred -BETTING: 3-1 Hussing Stene, Joe Buzz, 4-1 Pentevedra, 5-1 Master Of The Rock, 8-1 Wicklow Way, My Shanandoah, 20-1 Blooming Spring

FORM VERDICT

With a 6th pull for 4l, MASTER OF THE ROCK is fancied to reverse recent course running with Pontevedra. John Mack-

2.45 TOTE HANDICAP (CLASS C) E10,000 added 1m 4f

- 8 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Decizino, 4-1 Random (Gadness, 5-1 Night City, 6-1 White Pleizs, 7-1 Ethabub, 10-1 Opera Buff, King Priem, 12-1 Meteor Strike FORM VERDICT

Tactors could play a big part here and much will depend on whether Denzino (who has to prove himself at this trip) and Night City take each other on up fromt. But it is clear that a well-run male and a half here is ideal for RANDOM KINDNESS.

03 RUSHED (32) G Enright 9 0 ______P Fessey 3 A Clark 2

FORM VERDICT With his ability to handle today's conditions proven, RAYIK gets the vote ahead of Stero Heights. Royal German and Zada

look the only others worth considering. 3.45 WHIPS & WOODS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 7f

DOZDO SHAFI (JISA) (8) (C) (8F) D Nichols 5 10 3 ... P Goods (7) 2 60521 RAINSTORM (8) (CD) C Dwyer 3 9 10 (8cc) J Chrim 1 00030 THATS LIFE (8) T Mile 3 9 6 L Carter 4 062500 PERCLES (10) OM MSS G Kelleway 4 9 7 S Drowns 5 42122 ELLWAY PRINCE (8) (C) Wis N Macauley 3 8 6 D MicKennet 9 V

- y courno -BETTING: 11-4 Eliway Prince, 3-1 Thats Life, 5-1 Sibarii, 7-1 Begoile, 6-1 Rainstorm, Best Quest, 14-1 Paricles, Hever Golf Glory, 20-1 Ivor's

FORM VERDICT

It is herd to see why Silterii should succeed off a career-high

mark over the longer top and this can go to ELLWAY PRINCE, who has been running well in competitive handicaps. Thats Life may be his biggest denger, although hora Deed and Best Quest cannot be discourised under their optimum conditions

3.15 SILKS & PLUS FOURS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 3YO 1m 2f

RACING RESULTS 2,50: (2m 110yds, novice hurdle)

4; 2. Fenteron 1-2 favourise 2 ran. 1/4. (trained by P Webber at Banbury). Total win dividend £1.80.

> CSF: £14.89.M A Progeraid 6-4 Jt fav S Fox 6-4 Jt fav 1.45: 1. WORLD EXPRESS (D Salter) 9-4

4 ran. 28, 13, dist. (P Nicholis, Shepton Mallet), Tote: win £210; places. DF: £170. CSF: £3.92. NRs: Cyborg De Beaufai, Tipstaff. 3,50: (2m ?1Dyds, NH Flat race)

Star of Dungarnon, 7-1 Eddys Son (4th), 16-1 Brave King (6th), 20-1 Fu's Baby. 8 ran. 6, 4, nk, 30, 21/. (N Twiston-Davies, Cheltoniam), Totes: wn £20,80; places £290, £190, £210. DF: £86,60 Jackpot: Not won, pool of £9,516,08 carried forward to Taurston today. Ptacepot: £25,00. Quadpot: £14,40. Ptace 8: £28,82. Ptace 5: £990. 1.15: 1. NEW BIRD (R Johnson) 11-4; 2. Amoroso 9-2; 3. Traiuide 5-2 tav. 9 ran. 5, 27. (D Nicholson, Temple Guiting). Tote: 2340; £190, £180, £170. Duel Forecast: £860.

fav; 2. Peelings 4-1; 3. Simons Castle 13-2.7 ran. 8, 11/s. (B Milman, Cultompton). Tota: C300; £190 £180 Duel Forecast £410 CSF:

Cast: £680, CSF; £1673. 2.55; 1, DR LEUNT (A Thornton) 15-8; 2. Lancastrian Jet 6-5 lav, 3. Camitrov 5-1 4 ran. 28, dist. (P Hobbs, Minehead). Tote: £240. Dual Forecast: £150. Computer Straight Forecast: £4,29 3 25: 1 EVEN ELOW (A Thorntool 7-4: 2.

Straight Forecast: £4,23 Placepot: £10360 Quadpot: £5160. Place 8: £14184. Place 5: £4745.

23.00, DF: £1750, CSF: £29.52.

Each-way a fath the odds, places 1, 2, 3 Tote Trilecta: \$1.196.50. C Corel H Wim Hill L Lactoroles, S Starley, T Total

0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS 971 981 972 982 973 983 974 984 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 97<u>0</u>

CHEPSTOW

12.35; (2m 4f 110yds, novice hurdle) 1. WINSTON RUN G Tormey 7-2 Storm CastleD Gallagher 15-1 Also: 5-2 fav Elouis, 11-2 Indian Spring

(4th), 12-1 Jalapeno (5th), 20-1 lim imran, 20-1 Inferno (6th), 33-1 Fountain Bank (5th), 33-1 Riverside Stroll, 50-1 Clorishire Castle, 50-1 Eskleybrook, 50-1 Nearly A Doctor, 100-1 Sandoran. 14 ram. 4, 3, 5, 21, 29. (tan William: Alvecturch), Tote: win £470; places £150, £400, £200, Dual Forecast: £5910, Com-

ners: Otter River, Strong Magic. FIRST SHOW

puter Straight Forecast: \$4702. Non Run-

Lingfield 2.45 CHLS7 72 31 52 114 114 Naght City 41 41 72 72 138 103 72 51 72 41 Denzino Rendom Korness 41 92 92 5-1 11-2 Opena Suff 91 13-2 81 91 7-1 White Plains 91 10-1 91 91 91 King Prism 12-1 11-1 9-1 12-1 12-1 Methor Strike 8-1 17-1 12-1 12-1 12-1

1.10: (2m 3f fl0yds, novice chase) 1. POTENTATE _____A P McCov 6-4

> 3. Strong Tel ... Also: 16-1 Bozo, 25-1 Lewesdon Manor (4th), 50-1 Pleasureland (5th), 100-1 Royal 7 ram. 11, 11/4, 10, 25. (M Pipe, Wellington). Tota: win £2.30; places £160. £150. DF: £160. CSF: £317. NR: Lough Lein Spint.

....M A Pitzgerald 11-10 lav

1. HUNT HILL _____ A Maguire 5-1
2. Miss Orphen ___ A P McCoy 8-15 fev __A Maguire 5-1 Also: 11-2 Out n'about, 14-1 Chief Casteer 5 (an. 17, 1/s, 23, (J.J. O'Neal, Pernth). Total: wm 25.30; places \$180, \$160, DF: \$2.80.

1.40: (2m 110vds, Grade 1 hurdle, 3yo)

Aleo: 9-2 tav Earth Summit (pulled up), 5-1 Dom Samourai, 11-2 Euclipe (4th), 13-2 Macgeorge (6th), 9-1 Torduff Express, 14-1 Him of Praise, 16-1 Salt By The Stars (5th), 20-1 Samlee, 33-1 Arter Mole, 150-1 Choisty, 150-1 See Enough 14 ran. h. 6. 12. 4. 16. (N Hawke, Chard). Tota: wm £1640; places £2.60. £2.10 £4.20. DF: £34.70. CSF: £83.60. Tricast £1028.02.

2.15: (3m5/110yds, Weish National handicap)

1. LYREEN WONDERM A Fitzgerald 11-8 fav

\$150, \$150, DF: £340, CSF: £473. 3,20: (2m 3f 190yds, handicap chase) 1. STORM DAMAGE 2. Gratomi ... 3. Rovester . Also: 25-1 Benjamin Lancaster (4th).

1. PROMINENT PROFILE J Goldstein 20-1 2. Frosty Carryon — M A Fizgerald 11-2 3. Queens Harbour — B Powell 11-2 Also: 2-1 fav Scarlet Emperor (5th), 11-4

KEMPTON Going: Soft (Good to Soft in places) 12.40: 1. HOH EXPRESS (A Thornton) 7-

2.20: 1, FRENCH HOLLY (A Thornton) 5-2, 2. Master Beveled 15-2; 3. Dato Star evens tav. 5 ran. 9, 8. (F Murphy, Middleham). Tota: £3.20; £1.40, £2.10. Dual Fore-

Big Matt 13-8 favourte; 3. Chief's Song 9-4.3 ren. 3, 26. (T Casey, Dorking). Total: £2.40. Dual Forecast: £1.70. Computer

DF: £50.30. CSF: £86.51. Tricast: £806.61. 2.00: 1. THE BUTTERWICK KID (A Dobbin) 9-4 fav: 2. For Cathel 4-1: 3. Teas tral 5-2 6 ran. 10, rik. (R Fahey). Tote: £2.50; 2200, 5200. DF: 5550. CSF: 5992.

1.00: 1. SIMPLY GIFTED (R Garritry) 11-8 fav; 2. Ilahabad 7-1; 3. Master Tern 12-1 13 ran. 15, 4 (T Eastarby). Tota: \$250; \$210.

1.30: 1. CARLEY LAD (Richard Guest) 12

ran. 5-2 fev Master Wood (pulled up). 1/4

8 (N Mason), Tota: \$13.20; \$190, \$3.20, \$210.

2.35: 1. CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE (R

1; 2. Inch Way 6-1; 3. B The One 9-1 8

\$160, \$190. DF: \$740. CSF: \$1028.

McGrath) 16-1; 2. Direct Route 9-4; 3. Fly-ing Instructor 11-4.5 ram. 2-1 tav Lake Karl-(4th), 11/4, 31/4, (T Easterby), Tota: £15.20; £2.10, £1.70, DF: £11.00, CSF: £48.68. 3 05: 1. ARDENT SCOUT (S Durack) 14-1; 2. King Pin 8-1; 3. Bobby Grant 4-1 6 ran. 11-10 tav Birkdale (5th), 3, 3, (Mrs S Smith). Tote: £14.80; £3.40, £3.80. DF: £32.90, CSF: £97.82. Non Runner: Master

3.35: 1. FARU (J Osborne) 4-1; 2. Billy No-maite 8-1; 3. Donnybrook 5-2 fev. 7 ran. nk. 5. (P. Webber). Tota: \$4.90: £2.00. Placepot: \$2,92010. Quedipot: \$1,219.10 (pool of £32950 to Taureon today). Place 6: £2,62706. Place 5: £1,64902.

Armstrong treble traumatises Everton

TWO MINUTES from the end of BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM Tottenham's best victory of the season, the 36,053 spectators Tottenham Hotspur present witnessed an unusual scene as Chris Armstrong, whose second-half hat-trick turned the game, was substituted. His route to the touchline team-mate bowing in the "We Are Not Worthy" routine - none other than David Ginola.

To earn such praise from the Frenchman, who is not backward in coming forward with

Everton

despair with fellow team members, Armstrong had given a convincing demonstration of was momentarily blocked by a goalscoring instinct in the space of 20 minutes to decide a contest which appeared to be heading for a stalemate.

After 62 minutes he followed in a chipped pass from Darren Anderton and rounded Ever- heel by Ferdinand then sent expressions of impatience or ton's keeper, Thomas Myhre, Armstrong clear of the last de-

a 2-1 lead from an acute angle. a powerful shot.

Having got his eye in at last, after a number of hesitant efforts in the first half, Armstrong was clearly on a roll. And when Tottenham's promising central defender Luke Young drilled the ball through the heart of the Everton defence to send Armstrong in on goal with his striking partner Les Ferdinand, goal number three was clearly imminent. A neat back-

Armstrong completed the first Tottenham treble since Jürgen Klinsmann rounded off last season with four goals against Wimbledon when he was sent clear on the right by Anderton's pass. Jubilation for Tottenham; desperation for an Everton side who had seemed equal to their challenge.

Walter Smith criticised a linesman and referee Graham Poll for allowing Armstrong's first goal. "It was a clear hand-

keener Thomas Myhre hesitated in going for it," said the Everton manager.

None of Smith's charges seemed up to the task of containing Ginola, who sent over a sequence of sumptuous crosses from the left, However, Armstrong was unable to use the service to best advantage, most notably in the 19th minute when he miscontrolled a floating offer at the far post.

But Tottenham's frustration ended within four minutes, as

other Ginola cross spun down Don Hutchison's cross was off the back of a defender's head and Ferdinand, given sufficient time and space to run back behind the ball, jabbed it powerfully past Myhre on the turn.

Compared to their dismal home record of six goalless draws and three goals in 10 matches, Everton's away form this season has been positively bountiful. In the nine matches before this one, they managed an average of a goal a game.

The average was duly main

before shooting Tottenham into fender and free to drive home ball and that's why our goal an Armstrong header from an tained on the half hour when headed low past the Tottenham keeper by Ibrahima Bakayoko.

Referee: G Poll (Hertit

Bottom two show appetite for fight

BY NICK HARRIS

Nottingham Forest Southampton

THE PREMIERSHIP'S bottom two sides brought a new meaning to the term 'relegation dogfight" yesterday by sharing the points after 90 minutes of the scrappiest play seen anywhere this season.

At one stage in the second half-after Southampton's Hassan Kachloul had given his side the lead with a header and then Steve Chettle had levelled with a penalty - the match literally descended into a fight.

Southampton's French defender, Patrick Colleter, went to retrieve a dead ball from the Forest dug-out, but instead of returning with it he received a shove from a player sitting on the home bench.

Seeing his team-mate in trouble, Kachloul waded into the fray. Most of the Forest bench and several players from each side piled in, arms flying. It took about two minutes for the referee, Mike Reed - who did not book anyone over the incident - to break up the mêlée, and play was able to resume.

As an example of the kind of action witnessed yesterday, it was appropriate. For all the football that took place it might well have been better to put all the players in the centre circle and let them have it out with a bare knuckie dust-up.

"It was a full-blooded, hard fought match," Dave Jones, the Southampton manager, said afterwards. "There were no punches thrown, just some shoving and pushing," he added of the touchline fracas.

"The most important thing today for us was not to lose the game," he added. "Both teams were fully committed. They wanted to win."

Dave Bassett, Jones' counterpart, summarised the game in a similar fashion, praising both sets of players for their spirit and saying the confrontation around the dug-out was "just some handbags and some verbals".

Despite a protest outside, calling for his own head and for those of the Forest board, he said: "It's itusitad we are. But we've got to get on with what we've got."

The first real chance of the game came after 10 minutes when Egil Ostenstad controlled the ball in the box, managing to spin around and attempt a shot from five yards. Unfortunately for him, he hit it straight into 🍇 chest of the former Saints goalkeeper, Dave Beasant.

Fifteen minutes later, the man who replaced him at The Dell, Paul Jones, nearly gifted the home side a lead. A Dougie Freedman shot was skied by Ken Monkou, and Jones, under no pressure and with several seconds to steady himself for the falling ball, let it slip through his arms. Somehow the defenders scrambled it away as Freedman pounced.

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Goalmouth scrambles and sloppy missed chances occurred at both ends in both halves but there was no breakthrough until Kachloul got on the end of a corner three minutes into the second half to put the visitors ahead.

Five minutes later, after Forest were given a penalty for a Jones challenge on Freedman as he ran for goal, Chettle equalised with a penalty. The match, like both sides' chances of Premiership survival, then slid rapidly downhill

Goals: Kachloul (48) 0-1; Chettle (pen 53) Nottingham Forest (4-4-2): Beasant; Hielde, Chettle, Gernmill, Rogers, Scone, Bonalair, Johnson, Bart-Williams; Freed-man (Hartwood, 75). Shipperley, Sagna Statutes not asset Louis-Jean, Armstron, Gray, Crossley (gk).

Gray, Crossley (gk),
Southampton (4-4-2): Jones: Colleter,
Lundelvam, Monkou, Hiley: Kachlout,
Palmer, Collete, Dodd; Osterstad, Beatles, Substitutes not used: Bridge, Monk,
Dryden, Basham, Stensgaard (gk).
Reference M Reed (Birmingham).
Bookings: Notchampton: Palmer, Kachlout.
Man of the matter.

Man of the match; Stone.



Arsenal rise but Vieira falls again

ARSENAL ENDED 1988 much as BY GLENN MOORE they spent it, winning matches and losing players. Going off yesterday were Dennis Bergkamp and Nigel Winterburn with injuries and Patrick Vieira with a red card for violent conduct. After this trio of departures, the champions took a lead and held it. Plus ca change.

Vieira's dismissal, his fourth with the Gunners including a pre-season friendly, was for striking out at Neil Redfearn with his elbow. Arsene Wenger, not for the first time, claimed not to have seen the incident.

It was Vieira's second dismissal of the season and Arsenal's sixth. In 27 months under Wenger they have had 18 red cards, plus Vieira's "friendly" indiscretion. They also won a Uefa Cup place in Wenger's first season, the championship and FA Cup in his second, and are third in the Premiership this only time Alex Manninger morning. Crime, it seems, does

Not that the foul play was all one way. Charlton incurred the to have suffered a dismissal when Eddie Youds clattered into Bergkamp from behind shortly before the break. Uriah match, settled for a booking. looked in rich form, promptly limped off it seemed a price worth paying. "He has ankle and groin problems," said Wenger. "Like Winterburn [hamstring] he could be out for two to three weeks."

Charlton Athletic Arsenal

senal's striking options look very thin. Charlton's, however, are even slimmer, and for them 1999 promises nothing but misery. The dramatic accession to the Premiership last May, and the vibrant start in August, are fond but distant memories. After seven successful defeats a return to the First Division appears imminent.

If they go down it will be for a chronic lack of goals with yesterday's match a microcosm of the season. As usual they were without luck, Redfearn hitting the bar in the sixth minute, but they also failed to create much or convert anything. The last 40 minutes were spent almost entirely in Arsenal's half, but the made a save of note the ball was

already going wide. Alan Curbishley has a modest amount to spend, about bulk of the cautions and ought £2.5m, but is struggling to find a striker who fits both the playing and wages bill. With Clive Mendonca and Andy Hunt out with flu – not that ei-Rennie, who had an indifferent ther have much troubled defences - yesterday's attack Since Bergkamp, who had was led by Steve Jones, a

game but limited trier. around in the six-yard box on a couple of occasions and perhaps other teams would have hooked them in. We didn't and With Nicholas Anelka missing for another fortnight, Ar-

and deserved something, but I won't hark on about that again, we just hope for the bit of luck everyone needs.

Dame Fortune was vesterday wearing black, with Rennie giving Arsenal one penalty and denying Charlton another. From a distance it looked as if he got both decisions right. Charlton's claim came after five minutes when Martin Keown brought down Jones. Seven minutes into the second period, a minute after Vieira's dismissal, Mark Kinsella upended Ray Pariour with a similar tackle. This time the penalty was given and Marc Overmars scored

Apart from a shot against the bar after 21 seconds by Luis Boa Morte, two decent saves by Sasa Ilic from Bergkamp and the odd scramble in the Arsenal box that was it. Arsenal are better at defending a lead than anybody and, with Martin Keown outstanding, they always looked like doing so.

"We needed great solidarity and good organisation," said Wenger. "The players deserve a lot of credit, it was a huge per-

Wenger added that he was "concerned" about Vieira's response to his dismissal. "It could take away his confidence. "The ball was bobbling I hope he does not lose his aggression, it is part of his game. He is a young player, he has improved his discipline a lot and I am not sure he deserved to be perhaps that's why we are sent off. He was destroyed psychologically.

As well as his dismissals,



Arsenal's Christopher Wreh takes the ball away from Chris Powell, of Charlton, yesterday

Vieira has received 28 bookings in his two-and-a-half seasons with Arsenal and may now receive a four-match ban.

For all Wenger's protestations of innocence, the disci-

plinary problems of Vieira and his team-mates cannot be just down to referees. So far Arsenal have overcome the suspensions, but they may eventually cost them a trophy.

Referee: U Rennie (Sheffield) Sending-off: Arsenat: Vieira. Bookings Charlton: Robinson, K Jones, Youds, Red fearn, Kinsella. Arsenat: Keown, Bergicamp

Wanchope off in flare-up

DERBY with one striker sent off BY DAVE HADFIELD and another possibly getting his send-off, grabbed an unlikely late winner at the end of the most eventful of matches at Pride Park. A record crowd for the new stadium saw Jonathan Hunt come on as a substitute after 83 minutes and, two minutes later and with his first real touch, he steered the ball past Mark Schwarzer for a victory Derby deserved for their excellent football in the first half and their grim determination in the second.

Their task changed completely when Paulo Wanchope was dismissed two minutes before half-time when he reacted angrily to a crunching tackle from the Middlesbrough captain, Andy Townsend.

Wanchope certainly raised his fists in the confrontation, but Townsend, who instigated the

flare-up, looked at least equally guilty and could consider himself fortunate only to be

For the 43 minutes that Wanchope was on the field, he and Dean Sturridge, playing what could be his last match for the club amid mounting transfer speculation, rediscovered the flair and mutual understanding that made their partnership such a menace last season. They had already driven

Middlesbrough close to distraction by the time that they fashioned the opening goal. Paul Gascoigne, who had set up the first chance of the match

this time. He dallied on the ball too long in midfield and, harried by Wanchope, underhit his pass to Townsend, allowing County to grab possession and break away. Wanchope's pass for the

weighted perfectly and the shot over the advancing Schwarzer was equally good. Gascoigne, eager to make amends, twice shimmled his way through the Derby defence for shots on goal in the next few minutes but was then

substituted, along with Phil

Stamp, four minutes before the

supporting Sturridge was

Of the two, it was Stamp who looked the more surprised and disgruntled, although apart from his one blemish Gascoigne had been by far Boro's missed by Hamilton Ricard but most creative player. They ceralmost turned into his own net tainly looked in need of him in Hunt (85) 2-1.

gled to break down a depleted home side, although they eventually succeeded in doing so through one of their replacements, Mikkel Beck, in the 76th minute. Dean Gordon got free on the left and his precise cross found Beck, for once, completely unmarked.

It then seemed only a matter of time before Derby cracked again, but they had never stopped looking capable of hitting Middlesbrough on the break. They did just that with six minutes remaining. Sturridge, given a distinctly cool reception by the Derby fans at the start but now fully restored to hero status, got in the cross from the right, Darryl Powell nodded it down and there was Hunt to seal victory.



mic assess round (gr.), Onispe.

Middlesbrough (3-5-2): Schwarzer, Cooper, Wders, Festz, Socidale (Maddison, 75),
Samp (Bed. 41), Gascoigne (Fleming, 41),
Townsend, Gordon; Deare, Ricard, Sab-stitutes not used: Moore, Beresford (gk.). Referee: R Harris (Oxford).

ending-off: Derby: Wanchope. igs: Middlesbrough: Townsend, last of the match: Sturndge.

Wanchope: Angry reaction

Wright and Hartson resume service

THE SENSE in Harry Redknapp's contention that it probably would not take much more than a couple of favourable bounces to get his strike force going again was borne out by the manner of Ian Wright's first goal since the last day of

The way things had gone for cross to secure victory in the Newcastle, there was no guarantee that he would accept a gift that came his way after only six minutes when Eyal Berkovic's miscue from John Hartson's low centre flatfooted Coventry's defenders. Seeming to take an age over a simple execution, Wright finally bundled

By KEN JONES

West Ham United

Coventry City of course, shared by West Ham's manager, who had further cause for satisfaction when Hartson snapped up Wright's

Wright since he put two past 67th minute with his first goal for more than a month. "When strikers aren't scoring they are bound to lose confidence." Redknapp said. "That can spread throughout the team, so it's good to see lan and

> John back in business." The remarkable thing, proof of West Ham's burgeoning that Frank Lampard should stability, is that they are more have done better with a pass or less established in the top that set up a wasted opportunity.

seven places of the Premiership despite the difficulties Hartson and Wright have experienced.

Conspicuous by their ineffectiveness against Arsenal on Boxing Day, when there was the spur of doing well against their old club, they looked a lot more like themselves again

Despite being opened up rather too easily along their left flank for anyone with affiliation, Coventry managed to work hard enough at disputing possession in midfield to force West Ham wider than normally suits them. Nevertheless, Wright especially went about his work with such renewed vigour Stephen Froggatt's surge from the left was brought to an abrupt end in the penalty area without any response from the referee, Paul Durkin, who had the unusual experience of completing the match without producing one yellow card.

Coventry caused West Ham one or two anxious moments, particularly when a swinging cross from Roland Nilsson was only just reached by Ian Pearce with Noel Whelan threatening. Another Coventry attack forced Shaka Hislop to punch clear but West Ham's response was immediate, Steve Lomas breaking way to find Wright, who came close to scoring after lifting the ball over Ogrizovic.

The liveliness Coventry showed at the start of the second half may well have been a response to some unseasonal utterances in their dressingroom. Before Hartson, more or that they are happy, but like less, put the game beyond Coventry's reach Whelan should have equalised when left free at a corner kick. But by then Coventry had lost too much of their earlier conviction. Geals: Wright (7) 1-0: Hartson (68) 2-0.
Wess Ham Unibed (3-5-2): Histop; Pearce,
Ferdinand, Dicks: Sinclair, Lomas, Berkovic
(Potts, 80). Lampard, Lazardis; Hartson,
Wright (Omoyinmi, 83). Substitutes not
seed: Breacler, Hodges, Forrest (gk).
Consensy City (4-4-2): Ogrizonic Nilisson,
Shaw, Breen, Edworthy (Teifer, 78):
Bolteng, Solivedt, McAllister, Froggatt;
Aloid (Hackerby, 57). Whelen, Substitutes
not used: Williams, Shilton, Hedman (gk).

Referee: P Durkin (Dorset)

not there in the past."

Dons can boost Hegarty's claim

ABERDEEN LOOK to strengthen the claims of their stand-in manager, Paul Hegarty, for the job on a permanent basis with victory over Motherwell tonight.

The Dons have been transformed since the former Dundee United defender took charge following Alex Miller's departure and have reeled off three straight wins to climb away from the Scottish Premier League basement.

A fourth successive threepoint haul at Pittodrie would be the first time any Aberdeen side had managed the feat for more than six years. Such a result would also see the Dons leapfrog Motherwell into fifth

The Aberdeen chairman. Stewart Milne, yesterday repeated his assertion that the Pittodrie board would continue to weigh up their options, and that there had been "no shortage of applications" for the post. But, with the support of the dressingroom behind him, Hegarty is emerging as a front-line contender to be handed the reins at least until the end of the season.

"The directors have told me everyone else I am waiting to see how the situation evolves." he said. "The players have been magnificent for me and I would like to thank them regardless of what might happen from here.

"They knew they had to raise the standard of their own games and they have really applied themselves so far. They have dug deep and shown a determination and resilience that was probably

Gary Smith available after sus-

pension and will also have to decide whether to retain Derek Stillie in goal when veteran Jim Leighton recovers from the flu that kept him out of Satur-

day's 2-1 win at Dunfermline. Stillie, a former Scotland Under-21 keeper, has played fewer than 20 games in eight seasons at the club and is ready to seek pastures new with his contract up in June. "I face a difficult decision in the new year and it will be decided by football matters, not financial." he said. "I am 25 now and I have to start playing first-team football on a regular basis. If it is clear that isn't going to happen I may have little option but to move on." Motherwell, meanwhile, de-

spite a radical improvement

under Billy Davies, are still

searching for a first away vic-

tory this season - a problem also facing Dunfermline in the other Premier League game tonight. The Pars are in danger of becoming marooned at the bottom and desperately need to pick up points from their visit to St Johnstone and Saturday's home game with Hearts before the three-week winter shutdown. But they will face a Saints side

their manager, Sandy Clark, to deleat at Ibrox on Saturday "It was frustrating and disappointing not to get anything from the Rangers game and I regarded it as three points dropped after the way things went," he said. "We didn't get any breaks, but I still feel we should have done more to earn them. We have to be confident Hegarty will have defender enough to press home our advantage when we are on top."

TOMORROW whose progress this term can be measured by the response of THIRD ROUND

احكدا من الأعلى

Sunderland

scrape past

Bottom Goater's appetite for fight muscle lifts City

THE MOON is blue and they are BY DERICK ALLSOP singing of promotion, of a glorious new year down at Maine Road. Manchester City's slide seemed to have gathered an unstoppable momentum through these past months and seasons. but a 30,000 crowd dared to acclaim a change of fortune yes-

Their side recovered from familiar lapses, frustrations and a goal deficit to overwhelm Stoke City in the second half and deservedly take the points from a rousing encounter.

Long abused, tormented and even humiliated, Joe Royle's club have lifted themselves in the contest for a return to the First Division, the passion and commitment of those on and off the pitch compensating for obtious flaws in the playing ranks. Royle had the courage to throw on an extra striker, Shaun Goater, after the interval and the extra muscle pummelled

Stoke into submission. Stoke had gone ahead through Larus Sigurdsson, and with Graham Kavanagh and Kevin Keen controlling proceedings in midfield they appeared to have checked their recent tumble from the summit. But Michael Brown was to play still more significant midfield role, while the sheer

Manchester City Stoke City

attacks forced down Stoke's barricades.

The irrepressible Paul Dickov equalised early in the second half and six minutes from the end Gareth Taylor

headed the winner.

Stoke had responded to City's early vigour with like, making more cunning use of the flanks and providing able support to the front man. The arrival of reinforcements ought to have brought them the lead after eight minutes, when Phil Robinson, unchallenged right of the goal, volleyed meekly at goalkeeper Nicky Weaver.

Three minutes later the ball was in Stoke's net only for a linesman's flag to frustrate Royle's players. Dickov's clever turn and cross created the danger and Taylor led the aerial assault to turn the ball past Carl Muggleton.

Dickov instigated City's next threat, his dummy clearing the way for Brown to dart towards the goal-line. His pull-back was cleared by Robinson, atoning for

That scare shook Stoke out of a period of lethargy and the weight of the home side's probing of Kavanagh and Keen blocked by Robinson.



Stoke City's Peter Thorne holds off Manchester City's Tony Vaughan at Maine Road yesterday

set up their goal after 31 minutes. Kavanagh was twice involved in the build-up and Keen delivered the chip for Sigurdsson to head beyond Weaver's right hand.

City found an unlikely source of desperately needed inspiration in Richard Edghill, who defied the derision of the gallery to play a splendid pass into the path of Dickov. The striker was uncharacteristically hesitant and his route to goal was

Royle endeavoured to sharpen his side for the second half, introducing Goater in place of the ineffectual lan Bishop. The gamble yielded an instant dividend. The physical presence of Goater and Taylor made the most of indecision in Stoke's de-

stranded. City were reborn, the faith of their followers restored. Maine Road reverberated to the frenzy

fence and enabled Dickov to dis-

patch a simple 48th-minute

equaliser with Muggleton

and Stoke somehow resisted to launch a few salvos of their own. It produced an engrossing passage of play, worthy of the billing and full house.

Goater's next raid met with a more formidable obstacle and Brown's long-range shot fizzed wide of Stoke's left post.

Taylor was more accurate with his angled header to Dickov, but the little man's shot was half smothered. Dickov snatched at another, but redeemed himself after 84 min-

Stoke City (3-5-2): Muggleton: Sigurds Robinson, Woods; Petry, Cliffield, Karan Keen, Small: Thome, Lighthourne (Store) beforee: A Butler (Sutton-in-Ashfield)

partially resumed at the jampacked Stadium of Light yesterday. With a crowd of 41,433 Crewe Alexandra

Gradi test

in attendance, a record for the Wearside ground, Sunderland got back on to the winning track and Crewe continued to suffer from points failure. Beaten at Tranmere on Box-

ing Day, Sunderland pulled eight points clear of Ipswich at the top of the First Division table thanks to goals in either half by Danny Dichio and Michael Bridges. In doing so they took their haul of League points in 1998 to 103, one more than Swindon's record for a season, but it was a far from momentous performance by the would-be graduates to the Premiership.

Wingless for the fifth match in succession, with Allan Johnston and Nicky Summerbee still on the injured list, Sunderland were static and statuesque throughout a contest controlled. for the most part, by an assured utes, swinging over the cross Crewe team who belied their which invited Taylor to win the bottom-of-the-table status. Seth match. The striker duly oblig- Johnson dictated in midfield ed, judging his leap perfectly for and Rodney Jack posed persishis header to beat Muggleton. tent problems up front with his Goals: Sigurdsson [31] 0-1: Dickov (48) 1-1: pace. Ultimately, though, it was Taylor (84) 2-1. another pointless afternoon for

Dario Gradi's side. They fell behind against the run of play on the quarterhour. Alex Rae prompted an intricate passing move which culminated in Dichio back-heeling to Niall Quinn on the edge of the Crewe penalty area, then

NORMAL SERVICE was only By SIMON TURNBULL

Sunderland

collecting the return pass and firing a low right-foot shot past the diving Jason Kearton.

To Crewe's credit, they made their hosts sweat, passing and probing with a precision far beyond their lowly station. Jack squandered two clear chances and only the alertness of Thomas Sorensen denied the industrious Mark Rivers what would have been a deserved equaliser before the break. The home goal was fortunate survive intact after the break, too, the woodwork sparing Martin Scott the embarrassment of a headed own goal and Sorensen diving full length to keep out a rasping Jack drive.

It took the introduction of Bridges to settle Sunderland's nerves, the young striker holding off two markers to drive home the second goal with 12 minutes left. "He's a good player." Gradi mused afterwards. "I asked Peter Reid if I could buy him last month. I won't tell you what his reply was."

What his repty was."

Goals: Dichlo [15] 1-0: Bridges (78) 2-0
Sunderland (4-4-2): Sorensen, Makin,
Butler, Mehnile, Scott: Rae (Williams,
h-t), Cark Ball, Gray (McCann, h-t): Dichlo,
Quinn (Bridges, 60)
Creme Alexandra (4-4-2): Kearton: Bignot, Unsworth, Foran, Smith: Wright
(Lightfoot, 85), Johnson, Charnock (Lunt,
83), Rivers: Jack, Little (Street, 83),
Referee: A Wiley (Burntwood),
Bookings: Sunderland Ball, Makin,
Man of the match: Johnson.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Ī						Hon	ne				Awa	зу			5-game form	
		Pl	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	Α	Most recent on right	Upcoming matches
1	Aston Villa	20	39	+11	7	2	_1_	19	12 ,	.4:	4	2	12	8	LWWLW	9 Jan Middestrough (A); 18 Jan Evenon (H); 30 Jan Newcastle (A); 6 Feb Blackburn (H);
2	Chelsea	19	36	+14	6	3	0	15	5	3	6	1	16	12	WDDWW	Today Man Utti (H): 9 Jan Newcascle (A): 16 Jan Coventry (H): 31 Jan Arsenai (A).
3	Arsepai	20	35	111	6	4	0	1 5	4	3	4	3	7	7	DIMMM	9 Jan Liverpool (H): 31 Jan Chelsea (H): 6 Feb West Ham [A]: 13 Feb Man Lind [A)
4	Man Utd	19	34	+16	7	3	1	27	12	2	4	2	12	11	DDDLW	Today Chelses (A): 10 Jan West Ham (H): 16 Jan Leicester (A): 30 Jan Charlton (H):
5	Leeds	19	32	+15	-6	2-		16	3	2	6	2	16	14	LWWLW	Today Windscho (1); 9 Jan Blackson (A): 16 Jan Middestragh (4); 30 Jan Studengern (4).
Ę	West Ham	20	32	+1	6	3	1_	16	10	3	2	5	8	13	LLWLW	10 Jaa Man Utd (A); 16 Jan Sheff Wed (H); 30 Jan Wimbledon (A); 6 Feb Arsenal (H).
ž	Liverpool	-20	31	+1+	5	3.	2	21	12-	4	1-	_5	15	13	LLWWW	9 Jan Arsend (4: 16 Jan Southermoon 61: 30 Jan Coventry (4): 6 Feb Mitaliestrough (4).
8	Middlesbrough	20	30	+6	4	5	1	16	10	3	4	3	16	16	DWWLL	9 Jan Aston Villa (H); 16 Jan Leeds (A); 30 Jan Leicester (H); 6 Feb Liverpool (A).
9	Wimbledon	19	29	<u>.</u> 5	6	3	1.	-16	10	2	2.	5	9	20	MINNIM	Today Leeds (A): 9 Jan Derby (H): 16 Jan Toderham (A): 30 Jan West Ham (H):
10	Derby	20	28	+2	3	5	2	10	9	3	5	2	10	9	DDDDW	9 Jan Wimbledon (A); 16 Jan Blackburn (H); 30 Jan Sheff Wed (A); 7 Feb Everton (H).
11	Leicester	19	27	12	5	2	2	14	- 9	2	4	.	8	Ħ.	DWWLW	9 Jan Everton (A); 16 Jan Man Utd (A); 30 Jan Middleshrough (A); 6 Path Shelf Wed (A).
12	Tottenham	20	27	-2	5	3	2	19	16	2	3	5	9	14	WDLDW	9 Jan Sheff Wed (A): 16 Jan Wimbledon (H); 6 Feb Coventry (H); 13 Feb Southampton (H).
13	Newcastle	20	24	4	5	2	3	14	13	1	4	- 5	10	15	DDWLL	9 Jun Chelsen (M): 17 Jun Charlton (A): 30 Jun Aston Vita (H): 6 Feb Leads (A).
14	Everton	20	23	-8	2	6	2	3	5	3	2	5	10	16	DWLDL	9 Jan Lecester (H): 18 Jan Aston Villa (A): 30 Jan Noum Forest (H): 7 Feb Derby (A).
15	Sheff Wed	20	22	-1	-5	2.	3-	13	6	· 1	- 2-	7.	8	16	MALLL	9 Jan Tottenham (H): 16 Jan West Ham (A): 30 Jan Derby (H): 6 Feb Leitester (A).
16	Blackburn	19	17	-8	4	2	4	12	11	0	3	6	7	16	LWDDW	9 Jan Leeds (H): 16 Jan Derby (A): 30 Jan Tortenham (H): 6 Feb Aston Villa (A)
17	Coventry	20	17	-13-	. 3 -	4	3	11	12	4.2	1	8.	5	17	LLDDL	9 Jan Norton Forest (H); 16 Jan Chetzen (A): 30 Jan Liverpool (H); 6 Feb Tottenham (A).
18	Chariton	20	16	-8	2	3	4	13	10	1	4	6	10	21	шш	9 Jan Southampton (A); 17 Jan Newcastle (H); 30 Jan Man Utol (A); 8 Feb Wimbledon (H).
19	Southampton	20	14	-22	2_	2	6	12	20 -	1	3	6	4	18	LTM/TD-	9 Jan Charlton (H); 16 Jule Liverpool (A); 30 Jan Leeds (H); 5 Feb Chelses (A).
20	Nottm Forest	20	13	-18	1	6	3	9	12	1	1	8	9	24	LLDLD	9 Jan Coventry (A): 16 Jan Arsenal (H): 30 Jan Everton (A): 6 Feb Man Utd (H).

Not including Leicester City v Blackhum Rovers flate kick-offi

	_	N	ΑT	0	N W	ΙD	E	LΕ	ΑC	U	E	FII	RST	DIVI	SION
		-				Hom	ne .				Away			5-game form	!
		Pl	Pts	GS	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	Ļ	F A	Most recent on right	Upcoming matches
1 Sund	erland	-26	55	55	10	2	† ?	1	6	6	6	1 2	4 10	MMDLW	9 Jan OPR (A); 17 Jan tosatch (H); 30 Jan Watford (A); 6 Feb Swindon (H).
2 ipswi	ch	26	48	36	8	1	4 1	8	7	6	5	2 1	8 9	WLWWL	9 Jan Grimsby (H): 17 Jan Sunderland (A). 30 Jan Port Vale (H), 6 Feb Bury (A).
3 Birmi	ngham	26	45	42	- 6~	~5 ·	. . 21	8 1	0	7	1	5 2	4 16	LWDWW	9 Jan Port Vele (H): 16 Jan Barnsley (A): 31 Jan Bradford (H): 5 Peb Crystal Palace (A).
4 Bradi	ord City	25	44	44	8	2	2 2	8 1	2	5	3	5 1	6 15	WWWDW	9 Jan Stockport (A): 16 Jan Crewe (H). 31 Jan Brmingham (A): 6 Feb Watford (H).
5 Bolto	<u> </u>	25	43	46	7.	A	2 2	6 _1	4	4	6	2 2	0 18	DDWDW	10 Jan Crystal Palace (H); 16 Jan Steff Lind (A): 30 Jan Normach (H): 6 Feb Grinsby (A).
6 Watfo	ord	25	43	43	7	5	1 2	0 1	2	5	2	5 2	3 23	DDWLW	Today Norwich (A): 9 Jan Portsmouth (H): 16 Jan Wolves (A): 30 Jan Sunderland (H).
7 Hadd	ersfield	26	41	38	-9	- 3	1- 2	5 1	2	3:-	2	8 1	3 30	MINMI	9 Jan Bary (H): 16 Jan Portsmouth (A): 30 Jan Bristol City (H): 6 Feb Port Vale (A)
->/Grims		26	41	31	8	4	1 2	1	9	4	1	8 1	0 20	WWWLW	9 Jan Ipswich (A): 16 Jan Oxford Utd (H): 30 Jan West Brom (A): 6 Feb Bolton (H).
9 Norw	ich	24	40	39	- 6	- 4	1 2	2 1	3 T	5	3	5 1	7 19	MDDML	Today Wasterd (H): 9 Jan Cresse (A): 16 Jan West Brom (H): 30 Jan Novskih (A).
10 West	· · · · ·	26	38	47	8	0	5 2	8 2	0	3	5	5 1	9 23	DWLWD	9 Jan Barnsley (H): 16 Jan Norwich (A): 30 Jan Grimsby (H); 5 Feb Sheff Utd (A).
11 Sheffi		26	-37	39	7	3 :	3 2	2 2	<u>, </u>	3	4	6 1	<i>i</i> 22	TDITM	9 Jan Seendon (A): 16 Jan Bolton (H). 30 Jan Crews (A): 6 Feb West Brom (H).
12 Wolve		26	37	35	7	5	1 2	0 1		3	2	8 1:	5 16	DDLLW	8 Jan Transpere (A); 16 Jan Watford (H). 30 Jan Stockport (A); 6 Feb Oxford Utd (H).
	<u> </u>	26	36	37	5.0	ħ	4 2	3 1	7	4	5	4 1	4 16	DANTAM	9 Jan West Brom (A); 16 Jan Birmington (H): 30 Jan Oxford Urd (A); 6 Feb Crewe (H).
13 Barns	•		34	37	7	5	1 2		_	2	7	8 (9 26	DLDWD	10 Jan Boton (A): 16 Jan Stockport (H): 30 Jan Frannere (A): 6 Feb Barmingham (H).
14 Crysta		25		L.,,		ت. ب <u>ر</u>	9 1	5 2	- -	2 3	-	9 1		DIMMI	3 Jan Sheff Und (A); 15 Jan Port Vale (A);
15 Swind	on	26	30	36	5	4	3-4			<u> </u>				DDWWL	30 Jan Bury (H): 6 Feb Sunderland (A). [B Jim Wokes (H): 16 Jan Bristof City (A):
16 Tranm	ere	26	30	32	3	5	5 1		_ _	3 	<u>.</u>	3 17			30 Jan Crystal Palace [H]; 6 Feb Portsmouth (A) 9 Jan Bradford [H]; 16 Jan Crystal Palace (A):
17 Stock	port	26	29	30	4	5 -	4 1	5 1.			6	5 14	4 20	LLWILL	30 Jan Viches (H): 6 Feb Norwich (A). 9 Jan Sunderland (H): 16 Jan Bury (A): 30
18 QPR		26	29	28	5	4	4 1	5 1		3	1	9 13	3 24	WLDWL	Jaz Pozismouth (H): 5 Feb Bristol City (A).
19 Bury		26.	28	23	7	3	3 1	8 1	1	0	4	9 !	22	MDITT	9 Jan Hudderstield (A); 16 Jan OPR (H): 30 Jan Smindon (A): 6 Feb (pswich (H)
20 Ports	noath	26	25	34	5	3	5 2	0 16	5 T	1	4	8 14	4 28	WLLLD	9 Jan Warford (A): 16 Jan Huddersfield (H): 30 Jan OPR (A); 6 Feb Tranmere (H).
21 Port V	blë	26	25	29	-5	1	7 1	2 2		2	3	8 17	7 28	FTMIT	9-Jan Hirmingham (A); 16-Jan Swindon (H); 30-Jan Ipswich (A): 6 Feb Huddersfield (H).
Axfon		26	24	29	4	3	6 1	9 2:		2	3	8 10	27	TITTD	9 Jan Bristol City (H); 16 Jan Grimsby (A): 30 Jan Barnsley (H); 6 Feb Wokes (A).
23 Bristo	- 	26	23	37	4	5::	4 2	3 26	,	1	3 .	9 14	28	MDLLW	9 Jan Oxford Urd (A); 16 Jan Transnere (H); 30 Jan Heddersfield (A); 5 Feb OPR (H).
	· · · · · ·	 	18	27	3	3	7 1		,	<u>.</u> 1	3	9 11	26	DWLWL	9 Jan Norwich (H): 16 Jan Bradford (A): 30 Jan Sheff Utd (H): 6 Feb Barnsky (A).
24 Crewe		26	10	41	J	_			1					l	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Muscat's timing is to Lee's liking

A GAME that took an age to BY ADAM SZRETER come to life in the freezing cold at Molineux finally bore fruit in the last 15 minutes. The introduction of the veteran Spanish international Fernando Gomez added guile to

Wolves' gallantry and Colin Lee was rewarded with his first win since taking over on a 88th-minute goal by Kevin

itors' half, the Australian fullfrom 25 yards that bamboozled

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Aston Villa (1) ... 2 Sheft Wed (1)....1
Southgate 7 Carbone 8

20,043 Overmars pen 53 Arsenol's Patrick Vieira sent off, 51

Mtm Forest (0) ...1 Southamptn (0) 1 Chertle pen 54 Kachloul 48

Tottenham (1) ...4 Everton (1)......1 Ferdinand 24 Bakayoko 31 Armscrong 63, 76, 81 36,053 West Ham (1) __2 Coventry (0) ____0
Wright 7 _____25.662

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Bristol City (1) ...3 Serindon (0) . Torpey 8, 50 Ndah 46 Akinbiyi 75 16,257

Crystal Pal (1) ...1 West Brom (0) ...1 Morrison 10 Hughes 61 19,137 Grinsby (0)1 Stockport (0)9 Groves 68 8.058

MUSCAT 88

PYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division: Aylesbury 0 Chesham 3; Basingstoke 2 Aldershot 1; Boreham Wood 1 Behog's Scortford 2; Bromley 0 Gravesend 6 Northheat 1; Carstalton 1 Sutron Und 0: Dagentram 6 Rebbridge 0 Purfleet 1; Duhwch 2 Sough 2; Enfield 0 Sr Albans 0: Harrow Borough 2 Hendon 2; Heybridge 1 Billericay 0; Walson 6 Hersham 0 Hampton 1. First Division: Berkhamsted 4 Wealdstone 1; Carney Island 2 Braintree 1: Greek Albertal 1, Michiel 1, Bar-

nth (0) 2 Oxford Vtd (1)...2

Leicester ... Late kick-off

Chettle pen 54 23,456

Wright 7 Hartson 68

Dichio 15

39.217

Ipswich Town

It was perhans a little more than Wolves deserved, if not their patient supporters. Deprived of their first-choice strikers, Robbie Keane and permanent basis thanks to an David Connolly, through flu and tendinitis respectively, Lee back, Mark Atkins, might have Picking up the ball from Neil Emblen with a weary look-

Neither player made much action began. back strode forward into the headway against the meanest space as it opened up for him defence in the First Division first full game for Wolves since before hitting a swirling shot and if the game was diminished signing from Borussia Dortas a spectacle by Wolves' mund had a far-post effort Richard Wright in the Ipswich absentees there was a further blocked on the line before goal and flew in off the under- blow to the neutral when Gomez hit the bar with a rasp-

SECOND DIVISION

Bournesath (0) ...1 Liston (0) Cox 53 8.863

international midfielder, Keiron ner. Whittingham and Emblen Dyer, pulled a hamstring in then both went close before the first five minutes.

minutes before finally making way for Marco Holster and the game promptly died a death until Muscat offered a hint of things to come with a shot that went just over the crossbar after an hour. His fellow fullwas obliged to pair the willing done better than to poke the ball wide a few minutes later.

Robert Niestroj, playing his Ipswich's highly rated under-21 ing shot from the ensuing cor-

Ipswich, who were frankly dis-Dyer struggled on for 20 appointing, had their best chance with five minutes to go but defender Manuel Thefis shot straight at Mike Stowell. Almost immediately Matt Holland's goal-bound shot was desperately blocked by Muscat who, suitably inspired, roamed upfield to make the decisive contribution.

Goal: Muscat (88) 1-0

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Chester (0) Reld 75

MacclesFid (0)0 3,919	Blackpool (0)1 Howarth og 52	Broughton 84 Plymouth (0)
Mass City (0)2 Dickov 47	Stoke (1)1 Sigurdsson 31	Forinton 73
Taylor 85	30,478	Roscoe 22, Knill 32
Northuptn (0)T Freestone 68	Fulham (0)1 Horsfield 49	Raven 85
7,315		Scarbore (0) Rennison 82 2,300
Oldham (0)	York (1)2 Cresswell 34	
	Jones 60	Shreusbury (2) . Berkley 38
Preston (2)3 Nogan 22 Cartwright 32 70	Wresham (0)1 Gregan og 60	Steele 40 Kerrigan 80
Cartwright 32 70 Reading (1)1	12.106 Notts Co (0)0	Smanses (2) Smith 16, Watkin 3
Richardson og 24	13.026	Torquay (1) Lee 44, Partridge 8
Wigan (0)	Waisell (0)0 4,579	Lee 44, Partridge B
Wycombe (0)1	Chesterfield (0) 0 5,391	Cardiff2
scott 65 Chesterfield's Jamie	Hewitt sent off, 72; Simpson sent off, 88	Managal 7.
Wycombe's Michael		Camb Utd2: Scuntborpe2
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Preston23	14 4 6 35 28 46 14 2 8 31 19 44 12 7 4 41 23 43 11 6 5 35 22 39	Peterborough?
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Man (32424	9 10 3 33 18 37 9 9 6 28 22 36 9 7 8 31 23 34	Darlington2
Migan24 Reading22	9 9 6 28 22 36 9 7 8 31 23 34 9 7 6 26 27 34 8 9 7 29 28 33	Chester2
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	-	SCREWFDX DIRECT
crington Stanley O Bar cham 4 Marine 1: Bisha	mber Bridge 5: Altrin- so Auckland 1 Guiselev	Keynsham v Barnsta
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nymoor 1; Stalybridge	2 Frickley 2; Whitby 5	tie Yown 1 Mossley ron LR 1; Vauxhall G
Gainsborough 1; Wins Workson 2 Hude () Flo	ford 1 Colwyn Bay 1;	matches postponed.
Alfreton 2; Burscough	O Netherfield Kendal	
Hucknall O: Farsley Cell	Premier Dhissign: Ac- mber Bridge 5: Altrin- op Auckland 1 Gulseley is 1: Gastenhead 2 Ran- tey 1: Leigh RW 1 Spen- 2 Frickley 2: Whitby 5 ford 1 Cohwyn Bay 1: rist Division: Belper 1 0 Nether field Kendal 1: Eastwood Yourn 0 is 0 Raddiffe Borough seate Town 0: Martiock	
0; Lincoln Utd 4 Hant 2 Filoton O: Smrtishdi	gate Town 0; Madock	FOC
2: Trafford 1 Greena 1	ige PS 2 Bradford PA ; Whitley Bay 4 Great blon 5 Congleton 0.	FA CARLIN
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Arherstone O Tamwo	rth 1: Boston Littl 3	Leeds v Wimbled NATION
Grandham V. Crawley Dorchester i Bath 1; Ha	UE Premier Division: rth 1: Boston Llud 3 1 Cambridge City 1; lesowen 1 Bronsgrove	FIRS
u; ilkeston i Burton Ali	DIDITZ; METLINT I WEY	Norwich v Watfo
mouth 1, Salisbury 1 2 Goucester 2, Other m	orches postponed Mild-	Gillingham v Milh
and Distslot: Bedwor I: Bilston 2 Blakenali	th 0 Shepshed Dynamo 2: Clevedon 2 Clinder-	SCOTTISH P
ord 0; Moor Green 2	- Hastings O; Word-ser- othtes postponed Mild- th O Shepshed Dynamo 2; Clevedon 2 Cinder- Eussham Und 1; New- h-super-Mare 1; Paget O; VS Rugby 2 Stam- cidey 1. Chier morth- im Divisions: Baldock Hasant & Waterloomile 7 3; Corby 3 Braddey 7 3; Corby 3 Braddey	Aberdeen v Moth St Johnstone v D
Rangers 1 Stourbridge	0; VS Rugby 2 Stam-	THIRT
ord 1; Wisbech O His scootbooker South	ckiev 1. Other match- on Divisions Ratheria	Brechin v Montro
Raunds 1: Bashley 2	Havant & Waterlooville	SMERNOFF IRISH slott Omagh v Ci
r; unernstora 3 Fishe); Dandord 2 Erith & B	r 3; Corby 3 Brackley elvedere 0; Fleet 3 An- encester 1; Yate Town	sion: Omagh v Ci Dungamron Swifts RYMAN LEAGUE ropolitan Police v 1
iover 3: Witney 2 Circ	encester 1; Yate Town	ropolitan Police v

MINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Premier Division: Bedienham 1 Tharnesmead 1. Oth-

IRD DIVISION	FOOTBALL
(0)1 Cardiff (0)0	CONFERENCE
53 9.535	Barrow (0) Northwich (1)1
1 Camb Utd (1)1 7 Russell 3 4.419	2,015 Tait 8 Northwich's Chris Duffy sent off, 78
1 Maes/feld (!)1	Dover (2)
Lormor 2 3.320	Carruthers 4, 56, 75 Patterson 37
(0)1 Leytn Orient (0)1	Virgo 34, Hynes 76 1,480
57. Ling 79 3,424 (0) 0 Rochdale (0)1	Forest Grn (0)2 Hereford (0)1 Hedges 67. Hunt 69 Snape SS 1.705
Holt 79	Hayes (0)1 Welling (1)2
(0)1 Brighton (1)2	Flynn 88 Adams 15
34 Barker 39, 60 7,912	724 Browne 57
(0)1 Exeter (0)	Hednesford (0) 1 Doccaster (1) 1 Corns 77 Hume 41 1,542
(2)3 Hafffex (1)1	Kiddranstr (0)0 Cheltenbanz (0)1
Knill 32 Guinan 2	3,295 Watkins 34
4,728	Leek (0)1 Telford (0)1 McAuley 90 Palmer 55 672
)1 Scanthorpe (2)4 Hope 17	Morecasbe (1)1 Southport (0)1
Calvo-Garcia 21	Takano 45 Bolland 90 1 356
Forrester 47, 52	Rushden (1)2 Woking (0)0
y (2)3 Hull (1)	De Souza 42 4,307 Foster 90
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INTERLINK ENUPRESS Midland Alliance:
Boldmere St Michaels 0 Chaserown 0: Oldbury Urd 0 West Midlands Police 0; Pelsall Vila 0 Rushall Olympot 2; Rocester 1 Knypersley
Victoria 0; Stourport Swifts 2 Halesowen Harriers 0; Willenhall Town 2 Wednesfield 4: Oth-

TODAY'S FIXTURES

MCA 2 Broadbridge Heath 1: Sairdean O Whitehawk

i TRAINS LEAGUE First O Maine Road 4; Newcas-1; Skeimersdale 3 Ather-IM 2 Workington 1. Other

ion (7.45). IMIDE LÉAGUE ST DIVISION ord (7.45)

wall (7.45) ... d division

abost Ornágh v Lancovine Parte Densober Dungarnon Swifts v Bangor RYMEAN LEAGUE Second Division: Met-ropolitan Police v Tooling (7:30). UNIUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Burgess Hill v Redhill (7:30); Languey Sports v Hastsocks (7:30); Pagham v Orichester (7:30); Ringmer v Haitsham (7:30).

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE CUP Second Round Second Lag: Newbury v Bourne mount FC; Lymington & New Milton v Brock-JEMSON EASTERN LEAGUE CUP Second Round: Haistead v Felirstowe (7 45); Nor-with Urd v Diss (7 45)

RUGBY UNION CLUB MATCH: Leicester v Barbanans (3.0). BANK OF SCOTLAND BORDER LEAGUE: Langholm v Selkirk (7 30); Peebles v Kelso

OTHER SPORTS BASKETBALL: Budwelser League. Greater London Leopards v Worthing Bears (7.30) (ar Brentwood Leisure Centre) BARTS: Skol PDC World Championship (or Circus Tavern, Purfleet) HOCKEY. Women's Under-21 Regional Tour-nameur (of Malton Reynes): South v North (10 0): Midlands v West (12 0), West v South (2 0), North v Midlands (4 0).



PLUMMER IS EVERYONE'S MATE P15 • FENTON'S A MUDDY MARVEL P16

Premiership football: Relief for Gregory as his contenders resume leadership ahead of tonight's title confrontation

Ehiogu late show raises Villa billing

ASTON VILLA returned to the top of the Premiership, though perhaps only until Chelsea meet Manchester United tonight, when a late goal by Ugo Ehiogu broke the resistance of a Sheffield Wednesday side who played for 70 minutes with 10 men following the dismissal of Dejan Stefanovic.

Wednesday, who have specialised in frustrating championship contenders, were within five minutes of adding a point at Villa Park to the one they took from Stamford Bridge and home wins over United and Arsenal when Ehiogu's header rewarded mounting pressure by John Gregory's team.

It was quite an afternoon for central defenders. Apart from Stefanovic's exit for a second bookable offence and Des Walker's first caution for two and a half years, Gareth Southgate fired Villa in front with his first goal in a similar period. Benito Carbone equalised immediately, but Wednesday's vulnerability at set-pieces ultimately ensured a scoreline which reflected the balance of play.

Gregory, while conceding that Villa were not at their best, praised their ability to "grind out" results. The Villa manager felt that Stefanovic's possessed him at the expense punishment had been "very harsh", a view expressed more forcibly by Danny Wilson. "The first yellow card was diabolical," the Wednesday manager said. "The referee will be embarrassed when he sees it again."

Considering they had finished a draining match at in numbers when Stefanovic. Blackburn – playing a man perhaps caught out by short for 35 minutes – the Joachim's acceleration, again vigour with which Villa stuck at their task spoke volumes for their fitness and commitment. but like the Yugoslav, he did not

In their pre-Christmas fixture. at Charlton, Villa's goal arrived after three minutes. This time, only seven minutes had passed BY PHIL SHAW

Aston Villa Sheffield Wednesday

before Stefanovic was judged to have fouled Julian Joachim and was cautioned. Lee Hendrie's free-kick found Pavel Smicek punching weakly under pressure, allowing Southgate to volley home from 12 yards.

The Villa captain had not scored since striking the winner against Blackburn on the night of Kenny Dalglish's departure in August 1996. Yet if Southgate hoped an early goal might suffice once more, a combination of Villa's slapdash defending and Carbone's virtuosity swiftly disabused them of such notions.

PREMIERSHIP

r	**	•	E F AFG	
Aston Villa20	11	6	3 31 20 39	
Chelsea19				
Arsenal20				
Man Utd19				
Leeds19				
West Ham20	9	5	6 24 23 32	

The Italian, suspended when Wednesday lost to Leicester on Boxing Day, initially set up a shooting chance for Andy Booth but Gareth Barry disof a corner. When Andy Hinchcliffe's flag-kick was cleared back to him, he crossed again for Booth to outjump Dublin and give Carbone the opportunity to demonstrate the art of the overhead kick.

Villa were pressing forward sent him tumbling. The Villa striker tried to stay on his feet. have a leg to stand on.

Wednesday's strategy was already one of counter-attack. Switching to four at the back

and boldly leaving two up front, they twice scared Villa before the interval. First, Petter Rudi's cross was volleyed narrowly wide by Niclas Alexandersson; then Carbone chipped over Michael Oakes only to see the

ball land on the roof of the net. Villa's exasperation intensi-fied when Dublin, meeting Alan Wright's cross five yards out, saw his first shot thud into Hinchcliffe and his follow-up blocked by Srnicek in first-half stoppage time.

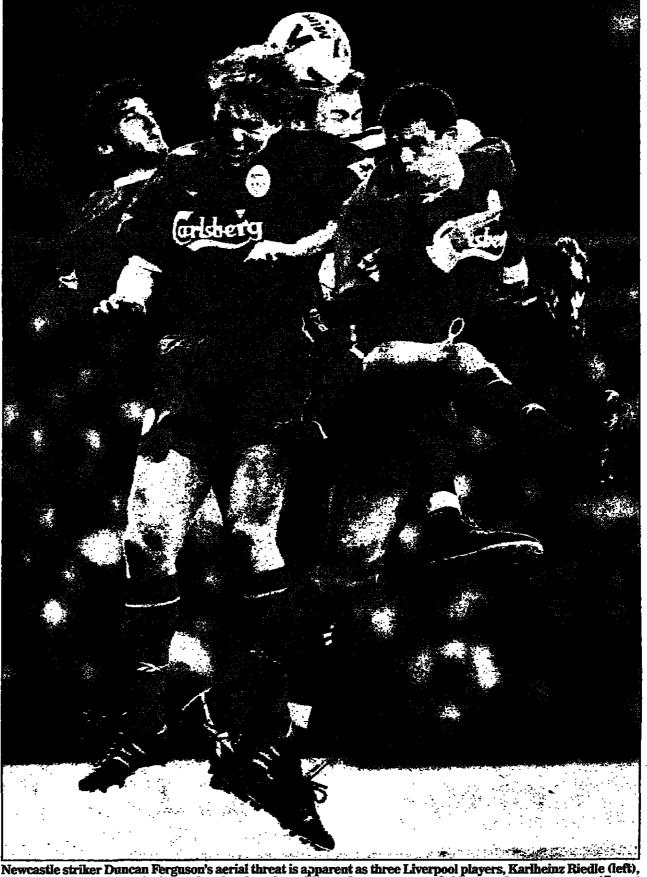
Eight minutes in the second half Gregory sent on Stan Collymore and Mark Draper. a ploy that had transformed Villa's previous home game, against Arsenal, but Wednesday kept possession and covered assiduously to deny them space.

On the hour, Ehiogu's towering header from a corner was wrongly disallowed by Mr Barber, and with 16 minutes left, Hinchcliffe received the benefit of substantial doubt when he appeared to take Joachim's legs in the penalty area.

In the 82nd minute, moments after Steve Watson had headed wide. Joachim's eventful day continued when his 20yard drive rebounded of the far post. Gregory admitted later he was resigned to drawing the game at that stage. However, when Ehiogu met Wright's corner with a beader that was a carbon copy of his earlier effort, Wednesday had exhausted

Wednesday had exhausted their supply of good fortune.
Goals: Southgate (?) 1-0: Carbone (8) 1-1: Ehlogu (8) 2-1.
Aston Wills (3-5-2): Oakes: Ehlogu. Southgate. Barry: Watson. Taylor (Draper, 53). Heridie. Sciences (Collymore. 53). Wright: Joachim. Dublin. Substitutes not used: Charles, Grayson. Rachel (gd.).
Sheffield Wednesday (3-5-2): Sinclet Thome. Walker, Stefanoic, Aleandersson (Biscoe, 69). Jonk, Atherton, Rud (Humphreys, 89), Hind-cliffe Book, Carbone. Substitutes not used: Magliton, Somes, Pressman (gd.).
Rafurat: G Barber (Pyfford, Surrey).
Sending-off: Sheffield Wednesday: Shefanowic. Bookings: Sheffield Wednesday: Stefanowic. Rud. Weller. Hincheliffe. Man of the match: Hendrie
Attendance: 39.217.

Football, pages 17-19



Steve Staunton and Jamie Carragher, battle to keep him under wraps at Anfield vesterday

Owen ruins Gullit's day

NEWCASTLE UNITED must be By Guy Hodgson heartily sick of providing thrilling entertainment at Anfield for miserly reward. Even with a two-goal start yesterday they could not get a point, shipping four for the third time in

four Premiership visits. This time they were victims of wretched luck, tiredness induced by having to play with only 10 men for more than an hour, the rough end of the referee's decisions and a rousing Liverpool comeback that saw them score all their goals in the final 23 minutes. Newcastle

deserved far better. Certainly their manager, Ruud Gullit, was thoroughly fed up. "A club like Liverpool does not need favours," he said with an oblique reference to the refereeing of Stephen Lodge. 'My players worked very hard here and to protect myself I don't want to say anything more. I wish you all a very

happy New Year." Gullit did not say it but he appeared unhappy at the second booking that caused Dietmar Hamann's sending off after 29 minutes and there was more than a suggestion of handball

AUSTRALIA'S FORMER sports

about Liverpooi's second goal. Hamann's dismissal was crucial although the punchline profit. That time was 28 minutes

Liverpool

Newcastle United was a long time in coming, because Anders Andersson was able to add to Nolberto Solano's opener early in the second half before Newcastle were swept aside. Needless to say Michael Owen made up a substantial part of the tidal wave.

"Even when we were 2-0 down we showed the character to keep passing and coming forsent off. ward," Gerard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, said. "The great thing is it's the first time in a long time since we won three matches in a row."

You do not need a fine grasp of football tactics to know that Liverpool's defence flaps whenever the ball is in the air and it required only 20 seconds for the weakness to be laid bare. Alan Shearer flicked on and Duncan Ferguson's low shot to the far post would have scored but for David James' long arm turning it round the post.

Defining a problem is only half-way to solving it, however, and as Ferguson ruled the roost it was only a matter of time before Newcastle would

when the giant centre-forward headed down Stephen Glass's free-kick and Solano charged in to thrash the ball past James.

Newcastle, who were turned over 4-3 in successive seasons here recently, exulted, but the celebrations were cut short almost immediately. Hamann had already been cautioned for a lunge at Steve McManaman that will sideline the England winger for at least two weeks with an ankle injury and when he tripped Patrik Berger he was

The visitors were furious that Hamann should be booked again for a foul that appeared no more serious than the one Jamie Redknapp had inflicted on Gary Speed in the build-up to the goal and Shearer was also booked in the protests.

If Newcastle were upset it was nothing compared to the home crowd who watched in disbelief as 10-man Newcastle went further ahead after 55 minutes. Phil Babb and Jamie Carragher went for the same ball, became entangled and then allowed Andersson the freedom to swerve round James. Babb almost got back to rescue things, but the shot bounced off his heel and into the net. Houllier found extra attack-

The Norwegian was freed from his defensive responsibilities by the introduction of Jason McAteer and ripped Newcastle apart on the right flank. Even so it seemed Liverpool would be denied as Shay Given produced save after save and it required

the lightening reflexes of Owen

to launch their comeback. With Anfield seething with excitement it would probably have been unstoppable anyway and the last thing it needed was any favours. But that was what it got when the referee ignored what appeared to be a handball by Karlheinz Riedle on his way to crashing the ball into

the Newcastle net That was the pin that deflated the visitors' resistance. Owen got his second after 80 minutes and Riedle matched him four minutes later MACCORD DITH IDUIT HUMBURS SOURCE.
Goals: Solano (28) 0-1; Andersson (55)
0-2; Owen (67) 1-2; Riedle (72), 2-2; Owen
(80) 3-2; Riedle (84) 4-2.
Liverpool (3-5-2): James: Carragher.
Staunton. Babb (McAteer, 58), Heggern.
McManama (Gerrard, 24; Thompson,
II-1). Redknapp, Berger. Bjornebye, Owen.
Riedle. Substitutes not used: Fredel (gk).
Hartmass.

Harkness
Newscastle United (4-4-2). Gwen: Chanes.
Newscastle United (4-4-2). Gwen: Chanes.
Hughes, Howey, Pearce: Solano (Dabuza,
74). Humann, Speed, Glass (Georgiadis, 66);
Ferguson (Andersson, 49). Sheare: Sub-stitutes not used: Barnes, Harper (gk).
Referees: 5 Lodge (Barnes). Booking:
Newcastle Shearer. Sending off: New-castle Hamarn.
Man of the march: Owen.
Actendance: 44,605.

Desailly ready to raise the **Blues flag**

BY MARK PIERSON

WITH CHELSEA'S title credentials set to undergo their second examination by Manchester United within the space of a fortnight tonight, the stage is set for the return of Marcel Desailly.

The Frenchman has not played since the injury-time victory against Aston Villa on 9 December missing four games in the meantime with a knee injury, including the 1-1 draw at Old Trafford. But, with Dennis Wise suspended and Gustavo Poyet out injured for at least a couple of weeks, the timing of Desailly's expected return could hardly have been better.

A colossus at the back alongside compatriot Franck Leboeuf, the French international signed from Milan over the summer has also played several times this season in a holding role in midfield. While Jody Morris has performed with distinction over recent weeks, the Chelsea player-manager, Gianluca Vialli, may prefer Desailly's experience and stature against United, espe-cially given the form of Michael Duberry in defence.

Indeed, it is a measure of the strength of Chelsea's squad that just when they look to have problems in central midfield, they can look to call upon the services of a World Cup winner to step in. Desailly has been close to starting Chelsea's last two games before pulling out late on, so his involvement is not certain. However, the feeling persists that Vialli may have been saving him for tonight when he named his side to face Southampton on

Roberto Di Matteo may also be back to partner Desailly in central midfield after missing the trip to The Dell through suspension, while the hand injury which required a minor operation should have cleared up sufficiently. Chelsea will wait until later this week for further tests on the knee injury which Po suffered at Southampton before giving an update on his condition, despite reports already ruling him out for six weeks.

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United's doubts surround £28m worth of talent forced to miss Saturday's 3-0 win over Nottingham Forest with Dwight Yorke, Jaap Stam and Andy Cole all having treatment. "We will have to see how they are before making any decisions," said the United manager, Alex Ferguson, who admits he is looking forward to the big game.

"We have a very good record at Chelsea," he said. "It's one of our favourite grounds just as it is for Chelsea when they come to Old Trafford. It's a strange situation. It will be a smashing match and I think it has some significance for the title race in that whoever wins will be doing handstands."

Gary Neville is available after missing Saturday's win through suspension but will be out again on Sunday after collecting five bookings. He misses the FA Cup tie with Middlesbrough but could be back tonight at the expense of his brother Phil, who was right. back against Forest, Ronny Johnsen, who scored twice on Saturday, could lose his place if Stam and Neville return but Ferguson may decide to leave Johnsen in the side alongside the Dutchman

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD by Aetred Monday's Solution



ACROSS

- 10 Travelling off to another 11 Searches for doctor in
- Greek island (5) 12 Sign of pound being en- 25 Damaged tendon round gulfed by changes in liquidity? (5)
- 13 Greets character showing precipitation (9) 14 Power kitchen implement in US takes current and is more
- expensive (7) 16 He is entertained in talk 3
- by them? (7) 18 Trick then has to be made correct (7) 20 Cattle enthusiast getting
- a look (7) 21 One forms column in forbidden city to right

Old seat of power? (7,6) 23 Feature of French in

- piece of plumbing? (5) 24 It prevents return of Virginia's loveless romance
- edge is improving (2,3,4) 26 Power, it tests Roman? Could be (13)
- 2 Little child puts everything into good bit of arithmetic (9) Daisy, a bovine, should
- One not the woman in question? (7)

Éditor's demise is caus-

ing some cross-currents

- Measure sign of disapprobation of hypocrite Artist and doctor meet
 - ing old brutal person (5) Job of work after coming from the theatre? (4-Rising water level which
 - calls for religious celebration (13) 15 Producer of chips gets
 - lecture from wit (9) 17 Indian's topping explosive speech (9) 19 Such oxide could give you a gas and a laugh?
- be able to see with it? (2- 20 Battier sort of old clerical wear? (7) Farm machinery which could get rid of water,

Sound of complaint from

formidable attorney (5)

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time had come for the Olympic Games to be replaced by an-

OLYMPIC GAMES

minister has called on the International Olympic Committee people. "If you're going to organise sport on a global level to scrap the Olympic Games after 2004 - because their cred- I would have thought the first ibility has been so badly dam- requirement would be that it be aged by the latest bribes ethically clean and that there be no suggestion of any financial Andrew Thomson, the son of taint to it all," Thomson said in

the five-times Open golf cham- Sydney yesterday. "But I don't think that with pion Peter Thomson, said the these people [IOC members] appointed for life, silly as that other global sporting event or- obviously is, that they can reganised by a different group of deem themselves.

other form where the franchises are not handed out by

Bribes bring call to scrap 'tainted' event

this extraordinary, bizarre group of men. What better than to say Athens, Olympic history and all that, why not make 2004 the

The IOC was embarrassed earlier this month when the executive board member Marc struggle with Peking. Hodler said that some IOC

"Why can't we organise a favours from bidding cities in global competition in some return for votes to secure the right to host Olympic festivals.

Thomson, who was replaced by Jackie Kelly as the Australian sports minister after a general election in October, said he believed Sydney's bid for the 2000 Games had been above board.

Sydney was chosen in 1993 as 2000 hosts after a bitter

"From what I've heard from members had taken money or others, Sydney's bid was clean quickly."

- that was the great miracle of it," Thomson said.

"Having the Games in Sydney despite some of the fuss surrounding SOCOG [the Sydney organising committee] is the only way the Olympic movement could possibly maintain even the slightest cleanliness. about it.

"I think that if the Games had gone to Peking, given the drug problems in China, that

would have killed it off very

Comment • Features • Arts • Listings •

Blood wedding



Boy meets girl. They fall in love and marry. It's an everyday story-except that the couple have ignited a tinderbox of communal tensions and now her father wants them killed

ianwar Ahsan, a clerk from Karachi, and his true love, Riffat Afridi, a young woman from the rugged mountains of the North-West Fronvery modern thing. They have fallen in love; they have run away; they have married in secret, and in defiance of their families they have set up home together. And now there is a good chance that one or both of them will pay for all this modernity with

This love story has mesmerised Pakistan over the past year: a bitter tale of starsed lovers and of fierce communal hatred and violence to rival anything that Verona could produce. It is, in short, an aptly harsh tale to sprout from the urban wastes of Karachi: a city at once the most prosperous and the most violent, the most stylish and the most barbaric in Pakistan.

Their's was a match made in this city, sometimes described as a melting pot, but which more often seems like a time bomb. To the outsider's casual gaze, there nothing wrong with their relauonship. Both partners were products of communities sucked into the city by economic need and opportunity. They were both Muslims, both Pakistanis, both citizens of the province of Sind. But their communities are deeply antagonistic. In Shakespeare's play, the deaths of Romeo and Juliet bring their warring families together in the final scene. Only the most optimistic could imagine that the deaths of Khanwar and Riffat might produce such a result for the Mohajirs and the Pathans.

For the past nine months, ever since the assault with automatic weapons that has left Khanwar with a permanent limp, they ave been in hiding. According to Khanwar's elder brother they are in the care of Khanwar's friends and distant relatives, moving frequently from one hiding place

A fortnight ago they emerged from hiding long enough to make it known that they were seeking asylum abroad. But the latest news is that their applications for asylum have failed. Of EU countries, only the Netherlands held out some hope. "But they suggested we hire a lawyer over there to pursue the case," said Khanwar's brother. "That, however, is more than we can afford." Meanwhile, he claimed, professional killers hired by Riffat Afridi's family are still hunting for the couple.

Khanwar Ahsan, aged 30, had worked hr several years as a clerk in Karachi, close 140 the Africis' family home. He was the child of Mohajirs, Muslim refugees (mohajir means simply refugee) who streamed into Karachi at the time of Pakistan's partition from modern India in 1947 when the subcontinent gained independence from Britain. More than half the current population of Karachi consists of Mohajirs, but they retain lingering, deep-seated grievances against both the native Sindis who were the old feudal power on this coast (the influential Bhutto family - Zulfikar and his daughter Benazir have been president and prime minister respectively - prominent among them), and the Punjabis who dominate the central government.

As outsiders and newcomers, the Mohajirs feel persistently cheated and downgraded; excluded from the higher ranks of government, the judiciary, the police. Stoking the fires of grievance, their main political party, Mohajir Qoumi Movement (MQM), has adopted tactics of hyper-vio-

lence against its opponents, turning Karachi into the bloodiest city in south Asia. Last month it became so bad that the current prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, placed the city under martial law.

If there was fanaticism and fury among Khanwar's community, his lover's had it in equal measure. Riffat Afridi was the 19year-old daughter - the "favourite daughter" according to one report - of a Pathan tribal chief. The Pathans or Pashtuns are the tribesmen of the North-West Frontier: tall, rangy, valiant, and unmistakable with their piled-up turbans, hawk profiles and insouciant mountain man machismo.

Their community straddles the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, and, while the majority now live in Pakistan, in sparsely peopled Afghanistan they number more than half the population.

During the colonial period, the British found them persistently unruly: there were numerous fierce rebellions. "Widespread lawlessness and defiance of British got together at all was a testimony to the of the first meetings and the doubtless authority," writes historian Robert G Wirsing, "were the constant complaint of

reaction of Riffat's family exemplifies more the city's explosive potential. The British officialdom at virtually all times." The best the British Empire could man-Pathans have very strong ideas about what age was to contain them through political is and what is not right in love and mar-

BY JASON BURKE & PETER POPHAM

439 ♥ ●

under tribal chiefs and with their own laws. And this limited autonomy has continued to the present day in Pakistan. The clamour for an independent state of "Pashtumistan" is no longer vociferous, however, as citizens of Pakistan, the Pathans are at best semi-detached.

The matching of a middle-class Mohajir with the "favourite daughter" of a tribal chief from the mountains was never going to please either set of in-laws. That they

agents, allowing them to rule themselves riage. Their heightened sense of honour, nang, means that if a woman of the tribe

receives so much as a lingering glance from

a stranger, tribal honour is besmirched, and

badal, or revenge, must be sought. This can

melting-pot qualities of Karachi. But the

mean death to the offender. But if a woman of the tribe enters willingly into a liaison with a stranger, it is not her honour but that of the family which must be restored, and that requires both lovers be killed. This is the nightmare in which Khanwar and Riffat now live. Details furtive courtship of the couple are hard to come by. Apparently they first met four years ago, by chance, because of the proximity of Khawan's office and Riffat's home. In snatched meetings after that, their relationship deepened. Then in September of last year, they took their fateful decision. In secret they married, then eloped to Rawalpindi, a large city in the north, suitably distant from both their clans.

When the news of the marriage reached him, Riffat's father erupted in fury. But he hatched a plan and laid a charge of kidnapping against his unwelcome new sonin-law. Riffat, he insisted, was already married to a 19-year-old from the same tribe called Niazbat Khan. Khan backed the story up. "We were married seven months ago," he claimed. "I will accept her as my wife if she is returned to me. She is already married according to our customs, and cannot be given to anyone else."

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The police took this convenient tale perhaps more seriously than it merited. Khanwar was duly arrested in Rawalpindi, and taken to Karachi to stand trial for kidnapping. There matters might have rested until the case was heard but at this point a tribal dimension entered the affair.

Riffat's father convened a jirga, a tribal council, to deliberate on the matter, and the eiders solemnly declared that Khanwar and his Mohajir protectors must die. Pathan law, which prevails in their own tribal area. should also apply in this case, the jirga maintained – even though the urban wastes of Karachi are hundreds of miles from their mountain homeland.

Now passions were ignited - political grievance, communal xenophobia and traditional urges for revenge make an explosive mix. On 11 February riots broke out in Karachi, and continued for three days: two passers-by were killed, and many people injured, including several policemen. The couple remained defiant.

From his prison cell at the time, Khanwar told reporters: "We loved each other and they would not allow us to marry, so we did it anyway. I will not leave her, come what may.' He did not have to wait long for what was

coming. As he entered the Karachi court building on 4 March, relatives of Riffat opened fire with AK47 automatic rifles, hitting him three times, damaging his spine and leaving him partially paralysed. Three policemen were also injured in the affray. and seven members of Riffat's family

Why has the story of Khanwar and Riffat so captivated Pakistan? It is not only the frightening exoticism of the Pathans trying to impose tribal law in suburban Karachi. Nor is it merely the gruesome communal mismatch of the unlucky couple. Rather it is a story that touches a particularly tender nerve. It throws into relief the centrifugal forces that threaten to rip Pakistan apart: refugee "outsiders", on the one hand, using everything in their power to achieve the status they believe is their right; proud and stubborn tribals on the other, clinging to their traditional codes, even trying to extend them.

These are the sorts of forces that give this young, fragile, artificial nation such a tenuous sense of its identity, and such a tenacious fear of what the future may hold.

Karachi remains a tinder-box of communal tensions. Anything - a road accident, a love affair, an assertion of will by the usually eunuch-like city government - can set it off. This simmering city is constantly on the verge of boiling over.

Yet for all its troubles, which include collapsing infrastructure, severe atmospheric pollution and crazy, cancer-like growth, in many ways Karachi works. It works for the rich, for whom it is Pakistan's centre of urban sophistication. It works for women, vast numbers of whom obtain good educations; get responsible and well-paid iobs, and conduct themselves almost as freely as Europeans. It even works for many of the poor, whom it attracts in huge numbers and whose shanties sprawl across the baked desert sand. "It is a gharib nasoaz city," a bus conductor put it recently to a local journalist - "a city which provides for the poor." Food is cheap, for example;

accommodation cheaper. Such a city should breed and inculcate civic values; just as it enables couples of different, warring communities to meet and fall in love. It should also create the conditions where they can settle down and live in peace. But for Karachi at present that is one measure of civilisation too far.

Leaders and comment **Obituaries**

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The Independent 29 December 1998

Kosovo's tragedy

Sir: Considering that every nation of the ever-turbulent Balkans has significant minority populations who desire unification with their "mother" countries, Rupert Cornwell's support for "monoethnic states" ("Can anyone keep peace between the Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo?", 28 December) in the Balkans is ludicrous and would set a dangerous precedent the world over that terrorism can indeed change the borders and ethnic compositions of nations.

A Western military presence in Kosovo will be a de facto occupation of Yugoslavia (reminiscent of the Nazi German occupation during the Second World War) if it is not condoned by the Yugoslav government and will have to be open-ended because injustice is not easily forgotten in this part of the world.

By preventing the Yugoslav government from combating the terrorist actions of the KT.A. the West will in fact be supporting the continued persecution and ethnic cleansing of Kosovo's non-Albanian population which includes not only Serbs, but also Gypsies, Serbian Muslims, and other ethic groups who number over 400,000 (according to some estimates) and are generally counted as "Albanian" but who in fact are mainly loyal to Yugoslavia.

Western-imposed solutions will not offer any long-term remedy to the Yugoslav tragedy. The devastating sanctions which cripple all Yugoslavs (Serbian and Albanian alike) must be lifted to boost the economy so that Serbian and Albanian leaders will no longer have a scapegoat to rouse their respective peoples against one another.

Only then can we hope that at least some of the irresponsible leaders who destroyed the former Yugoslavia will be replaced. Dr MICHAEL PRAVICA New York

The sky at night

Sir: Roger Highfield ascribes discovery of the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Pisces in 7BC to David Hughes of Sheffield University; it was in fact discovered by Kepler in 1603 ("Our ancient fascination with the sky at night", 19 December). Modern archaeology confirms that the conjunction was observed at the School of Astrology at Sippar in Mesopotamia.

Most of the Christmas carols we sing are good poetry and most are consistent with the Biblical record. Not surprisingly, most are also astronomically challenged. An exception is O Little Town of Bethlehem which contains the lines: "O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth."

Phillips Brooks wrote this in Victorian times, and presumably he was aware of the real identity of the star of Bethlehem. From the astronomical point of

view, the most troublesome aspect of the Biblical record is in Matthew 2 verse 9-"...and, lo, the star which they saw in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was". In fact, as the astronomers journeyed south from Jerusalem to Bethlehem on 4 December, the third conjunction would have been ahead of them all the time. One can imagine their reaction - except one does not have to. "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy" (v10).

Roger Highfield is right to say the debate will continue. That does not mean that the facts are not available. HENRY SPYVEE Colchester, Esser

A seasonal saving

Sir: An article by Janet Fricker on your Home Life page ("A little list and a lot of bother", 15 November) has just saved us well over £2,000. We had just completed some

alterations to our listed cottage, and paid the builder's bill which included a substantial sum of VAT. In her article Fricker clearly explained that the work we had done, which involved moving the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Panto Season No 2: Ben Crocker (in silhouette), the artistic director of Exeter's Northcott Theatre, oversees a rehearsal of 'Dick Whittington' John Voos

staircase from the centre of the sitting room to another part of the house, should have been exempt from VAT Having telephoned the local VAT office I was assured that this information was correct and they helpfully sent a booklet on VAT for builders which included a certificate of VAT exemption.

I was particularly delighted to see this article when I did, as we had been assured by both the builder and the architect that we would have to pay VAT. There was an element of malicious pleasure in getting something back from the tax man for once. JUDITH PEARSON Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

NHS rationing

Sir: Fran Abrams' article "Doctors who choose to reject the old" (17 December), told only half the story about institutionalised discrimination against the elderly in the NHS.

For decades there has been collusion between government and the medical profession in rationing care, while maintaining the NHS is the best in the world. Two groups have been particularly easy to deprive, the elderly and the socially disadvantaged. Until recently both groups were grateful for any health care they received and seemed to be unaware they were getting second best. What is geriatrics but a means for rationing care to the elderly?

I would welcome legislation that ended discrimination based on age, but ending ageist apartheid within the NHS would have major financial implications. To pass legislation without the financial wherewithal to implement it would be a cynical charade. SIMON J ELLIS Consultant Neurologist Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire

Sir: As a dentist with a nearly 100 per cent NHS practice, I read John Hunt's comments on NHS underfunding (letter, 22 December) with much interest.

Down the years, more and more

has been demanded of us, whether as employers or clinicians, and the resources have not been available from the NHS to meet those demands. The process cannot go on; I cannot allow my income to go on falling as it is at present.

However, at least I graduated from dental school free of debt. Today's new dental graduate has, on average, £9,500 of debt, nearly £2,000 more than the average new medical graduate.

At this point in their careers, they have a clear choice. They can either leave the NHS and have a financial structure to enable them to meet properly increasing demands and aspirations (from public, patients, and staff) or they can take their chance with the NHS. Under present circumstances, the wise choice is only too obvious. If the

Sir: How sad that Roger

Scruton should feel so

compelled to see real and

propitiate his own self-

Scruton, Philosopher.

actual blood flow in order to

perception and exorcise his

apparent anxieties ("Roger

musician, author, scourge of

would call it moral degeneracy,

intellectual champions among

a certain strata of society, just

as every horror and atrocity

Sir: Spencer A Grady (letter,

18 December) is oblivious to

December 1963 and July 1974

subjected to the most heinous

ethnic cleansing at the hands

documents. They were saved

by the intervention of Turkey.

About "peaceful co-existence" - between 1964 and

the Turkish Cypriots were

of the Greeks in Cyprus, as attested to by British

the fact that between

has had in the past.

DAVE GODIN

Sheffield

the left", 14 December). He

calls hunting sport; others

which will always have its

Government wishes NHS dentistry to survive, never mind prosper, it has some hard thinking to do. EDWARD B STRACHAN Cheadle, Cheshire

The Brussels yoke

Sir. As one of the "Eurosceptics" so derided in J W Holmes' letter (23 December), I would like to put the record straight.

Harmonizing "taxation, financial and social matters" with the rest of the EU in the way he exhorts us to do would mean adopting a model which is not only alien to our way of life but also manifestly failing. Why should any citizen of this land want to be taxed and regulated more, or to more than double his chances of being unemployed?

Mr Holmes also urges us to

IN BRIEF

Turkish soldiers allowed under

then were the Turkish Cypriots

island, and under Greek siege

1974 there was no Turkish

army in Cyprus, except 650

the Cyprus settlement. Why

pushed by the Greeks into

ghettos on 3 per cent of the

Turkish Republic of Northern

Sir: Well, that's that, then. You

("Black Christmas for Blair as

quit", 24 December). It took a

while but you managed at last.

clever with a breadth of vision

rare in politics, dedicated and

scribblers got him in the end

Mandelson and Robinson

It doesn't matter that he is

ready to work all hours. It

doesn't matter that he has

made the best contacts with

made it possible for the Labour

industry for years, that he

Party to present itself as a

for almost 10 years.

London WC1

HAKKI MUFTUZADE

London Representative

devalue as the only advantage of having one's own currency - he chooses to ignore the fact that currency values change as part of the action of the markets, reflecting the relative performances of economies. Having one's own currency allows the authorities to set economic policy to suit domestic conditions.

"adopt the euro as soon as possible", citing the ability to

Many millions of Britons suffered great hardship when we last gave up the ability to do this, during the ERM fiasco. EMU presents all of the same problems, but does not even give the possibility of escape. Were we to follow Mr Holmes'

advice, we would turn our back on our history and values, and lock ourselves irrevocably into a bureaucratic, sclerotic, European superstate. It is a sad sign of the

competent alternative. Very British; very sickening JOHN RUSKIN

Wombwell, South Yorkshire

Sir: I have concerns about a psychiatric bias in the Department of Health working group on the illness ME, set up to produce good practice guidelines for doctors.

The group has three sections, a key group writing the guidelines, a children's group, and a reference group, to comment on proceedings but with no decision-making power. Among others, the working group contains: seven psychiatric specialists (three in the key group), most known to view the illness as mainly psychological, and two counsellors or therapists.

There is one neurologist, and one immunologist - both of whom are on the reference

group (with little power). Has the agenda been set before the first meeting? **LAURA JONES** Dunvant, West Glamorgan

degree to which our national selfconfidence has been undermined that this is seriously suggested as

the best future for us. Far from being country bumpkins, we Eurosceptics raise our eyes to the broad horizons available to the UK as a great trading nation, with the fifth largest economy in the world. It is within our reach to do so much better - if we can just free ourselves from the yoke of rule from Brussels. AUSTIN SPREADBURY London EN2

Pinochet's rights

Sir: Richard Mann (letter, 22 December) argues that "Amnesty should support the Law Lords' decision to have a second hearing" in the Pinochet case.

Indeed we do support the need for the judicial process to be both fair and seen to be fair, and that includes the right to challenge a judicial decision. The fact that the victims of crimes against humanity in Chile never received a fair hearing does not compromise in any way General Pinochet's absolute right to a fair and impartial trial

Richard Mann is wrong, however, to suggest that Amnesty International is "another prosecution service". Amnesty International does not itself undertake private prosecutions. but it does urge governments and prosecuting authorities to investigate human rights abuses and ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

Merely complaining about human rights abuses is not enough, as the appalling cycle of recent crimes in Central Africa and the former Yugoslavia tragically testifies.

Unless we end impunity for

such abuses, what hope do we have of preventing future crimes against humanity MARK LATTIMER Communications Director Amnesty International UK London EC1

Action on Iraq

Sir. Ms Alibhai-Brown's tirade ("What's the point if you do this to Muslims", 24 December) against British politics shows an immaturity of breathtaking stature. Democracy is not a form of government that one can support whenever convenient.

Apparently, we charged into Iraq with "thoughtless policies and actions". I thought that we had eight years of tedious negotiations and endless "last warnings".

Racist Britain is to blame, it seems, for allowing Muslim suffering in Bosnia. I did not notice any Muslim countries jumping to their rescue. Is Indonesia responsible for Kurdish deaths in Iraq? Saudia Arabia for slaves in the Sudan? Apparently not.

Presumably Britain's millions of Muslim immigrants prefer its "imperialist, ruthless, xenophobic, democratic, immorality" to their own native lands. Am I perhaps a little naive in expecting assimilation rather than demands, gratitude rather than tantrums? TONY FREEMAN London NW11

Sir: David Aaronovitch must be at least half my age, and therefore would not have experienced as a child the London Blitz – night after night living in an Anderson shelter, their corrugated iron sides shaking from the bombs dropping all around. Otherwise he would not have been so ready to state that there was "no alternative" to the bombing of Baghdad (Review, 22 December).

Can he really put pen to paper and admit, looking back at this wartorn century in which our species has been destroyed in greater numbers than ever before by our own hand, that there still really is "no alternative" to war?

What on earth was -and is wrong with the lifting and ending of sanctions and giving the Iraqi people all the help we can muster to show the other, more humane side of our Western civilisation? PETER PORTEOUS Nutbourne, West Sussex

Sir: The Prime Minister has announced that there is no quarrel with the Iraqi people, only the Iraqi tyranny and its military.

Doubtless the same sentiments have inspired the US, often with British support, either to set up, arm or support Suharto, Noriega, Marcos, Pinochet, the Shah of Iran, the family tyrannies whom Saddam threatens, indeed Saddam himself when he embarked on his war against Iran, when the West wanted a strong friend to oppose Islamic fundamentalism.

As Tony Blair himself recently remarked: "We must learn from our history ... but not be mesmerised by it." ADRIAN KOZLOWSKI Birmingham

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Sir: Amid the roar of questions being asked about the American action in bombing the Iragis, one small but pertinent one risks being drowned out. Since it is almost certain that the action will have the effect of strengthening Saddam's hold on power, why exactly is this an aim of American policy? CONNOR FERRIS

Teutonic timetables

Sir. As one Bourne to another may I pass on some advice to Arthur and Fiona Bourne (letter, 23 December) about the hopelessness of all the website timetable information provided by UK train operators?

Facing a similar bewilderment when living in Cambridge, I followed the suggestion of a Finnish friend and looked up German railways' web site at www.bahn.de. To my astonishment, I found, in English as well as German, complete, accurate, upto-date details of all trains in western Europe, including the UK.

It is perhaps another sign of the folly of rail privatisation in the UK that the Germans can get timetable information that is denied to the British public. CHRIS BOURNE Brussels

Can anybody remember how the alphabet goes?

ALL JOURNALISTS have their own dia or dictionary. I doubt that I that up. I think it started "Ay for system of fact-checking. Mine is quite simple and the most reliable of all. If I am doubtful of a fact, I print it unchecked, If it is right, I get away with it. If it is wrong, several readers will write to put me right.

In fact, they seem to enjoy putting me right, using such phrases as "I am surprised you didn't know that..." or "Honestly, Mr Kington, I find it hard to believe you are unaware of the correct date of...". Thus I am educating myself and giving pleasure to readers at the same time.

Today I am going a little further than usual. Today I am actually going to plead for information. I have a collection of facts which is incomplete and I know of nowhere I can go for the missing information, nowhere like an encyclopae-

could consult the Internet, even were I able to. (Yes, much to the horror of people even older than myself, I am not yet properly hooked up to the Internet, and am in no hurry to be so.)

This all started the other day when I found myself saying to myself, "A for Ism, B for Lamb..." and stopped, wondering what I was saying. Then I remembered. It was the beginning of a quaint, joke alphabet taught to me by my father. The point of the alphabet was that it sounded as if it were a genuine alphabet, A for this, B for that, C for that and so on, but in fact it made use of pre-existing phrases and words to merely masquerade as an

And now that I think of it, it didn't start "A for Ism". I think I made

Anyway, I never wrote it down, and I have never seen it written down, and now my father is dead, so it resides only in my memory, and before I forget any more of it, here is what I remember. 'Av for 'Orses

Beef or Lamb Cephos Salt Differential Eave a Brick Effervescence

At this point my memory clouds over for G and H, and comes back in for I, and continues rather patchily thereafter... Ivor Novello

Jaffa Oranges 'Ell For Leather **Emphasis** Over the Rainbow

MILES KINGTON What on earth is P for? There is a French jazz

violinist called Pifarelly,

but that is a bit obscure

Queue for Nylons Arf a Mo Tea for Two

You've a Nerve Vive la France

That's it. That's about all I can remember. But there must have been a complete alphabet, because anyone who constructed such an ingenious series of definitions must have constructed all 26.

Mark you, one or two of them are a little dated (I have to explain "Queue for Nylons" to younger people) and one or two depend on slightly twisted pronunciations. "Jaffa Oranges" only works if you pronounce Jaffa as Jay-fer, and I rather suspect that the missing K was "Kaffir something", with Kaffir similarly mispronounced.

But what can the others have been? Periodically I go through this litany in my head, hoping that the routine will trick my mind into producing the missing ones, but

whenever I get to G and N I go blank. "Geefa"? "Gee for"? "Enfa"? "En for"? I feel a a bit sorry about "Ell for

leather", which seems the only possible solution to L, but which is a bit torpedoed by the fact that L really is for leather. But I am even sorrier about the

ones I can't remember. What on earth is P for? There is a French jazz violinist called Pifarelly, but I think that is a bit obscure. And what about W? And X and Y and Z...? Hold on, hold on. The mists of

time have parted slightly and a voice is trying to tell me that Y is for Bath. Wife of Bath ... Y for Bath... Yes, they sound pretty identical. Yes, I like Wife of Bath... But what about Z? "Zed for"? Zephyr, perhaps?

It is just possible, I suppose, that

S might be for Foetida, as in "Asa Foetida", but I have never heard anyone say asafoetida, only seen it written down, so I have no idea how it is pronounced.

In fact, I am not sure I have remembered correctly all the ones my father taught me. Did he really say "Over the Rainbow" or was it "O for a Muse of Fire"? Did he really say "Ivor Novello" or was it "I've a Funny Feeling..."?

Enough. This is a shameless appeal for information from readers. If you know any of the missing items, please tell me, so I can bring you the full and complete alphabet in turn. If I have got any wrong, please tell me.

If there is a website on the Internet listing all known odd alphabets. please don't tell me. I might be severely tempted to find it.

*THE INDEPENDENT

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Stubborn Serbs make independence for Kosovo more likely

YESTERDAY'S LULL in the Kosovo fighting will be met with that detached cynicism learned so painfully in Bosnia: we will believe a real truce when we see it. Winter has not frozen President Milosevic's desire to impose his will on the troubled province, nor the desire of the majority Albanian population for at least a measure of independence.

In this bout of fighting at least, troops loyal to President Milosevic are responding to sorties on behalf of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). But the Yugoslav army and police should not regard this as a convenient excuse for widespread military action.

Having removed Kosovo's rights under the Yugoslav constitution as one element in his nationalist strategy, President Milosevic has gone out of his way to inflame the feelings of its people. If the KLA is popular, it is due to Serbian intransigence: if the conflict is bitter, the Serbs have done nothing to heal its wounds.

Encouraging total independence. Western governments fear, could fracture the neighbouring republic of Macedonia and spread the conflict. But President Milosevic is doing his best to spread the conflict without our help. What will really fan the flames is to let his actions go unpunished.

Having been prepared to see the rest of Yugoslavia go to pieces in 1991 and 1992, there is no logical reason why we should not encourage Kosovo to free itself from Serbia's grasp. The province is technically part of Serbia, but that is due to Slobodan Milosevic's ruthless oppression of any sign of Albanian nationalism in the confused period covering the break-up of the old Yugoslavia. It should have at least held its status as an autonomous region. Milosevic scuppered that then, and may have to pay the price of even greater autonomy, if not independence, now.

It is clear that present policies are not working. Unarmed "observers" and "peace-keeping missions" are unable to do anything but stand by and note how many mortars and bullets are in the air at any one time. They are sitting targets for retaliation if we have to take real military action against Serbia.

They should be armed, and reinforced, or they should be removed. "Observers" are a way of showing governments are acting, without tackling the root causes of crisis: if Kosovo explodes, those nations who have so exposed their personnel may get more than they bargained for.

In the medium term, there is now no alternative to some form of autonomous Kosovo. Association with the rump Yugoslavia, though, can only be retained if Serbian policy becomes more moderate, a distant prospect while Mr Milosevic holds power in Belgrade. It would be better for all concerned if Western nations were to recognise military and diplomatic reality, instead of deluding themselves that present policies can contain Kosovo indefinitely.



حكدًا من الأحل

Shoppers are smarter than the stores think

THE BRITISH Retail Consortium's report that consumers are staying away from the sales has been taken to mean that consumers are frightened by predictions of recession. They have not been the only figures that can be read in this way: business surveys and official statistics have told the same story for months.

Doom-sayers have been ready to seize on evidence of impending recession. They argue that consumers are holding on to wages and savings longer, to cushion the blow of economic troubles. If price-cutting were to take hold in the desperate competition of a recession, then consumers will want to wait until they see how far prices fall.

ing more than they had the previous year, in order to spend in the sales. What looks at first sight like a sustained decline in sales may simply be the effects of a far better informed public, refusing to play the retailers' game in the run up to Christmas when they knew that large reductions will be available in January. We are willing to bet that January will turn out better than retailers are now predicting.

British retail chains continued until recently to enjoy large profit margins, undisturbed by the competitive storm blowing through other industries. Established names have been happy to trade on their high visibility and reputations, with results that are now apparent. Even Marks & Spencers, that bastion of the British High Street, is seeing itself squeezed.

Customers who travel to the United States and to continental Europe know that many goods in British stores are overpriced. They note that most items can be bought This case does not stand up to sustained scrutiny. in America for two-thirds of their British prices. They are December surveys also showed that shoppers were sav- less willing to be taken for a ride, and are holding on to

their savings not in fear of losing their jobs, but in the certain knowledge that their money will soon buy more.

This process will continue, and accelerate. With the advent of the euro, it will be more difficult to hide how much more Britons pay for their purchases. The increased trade it will stimulate will mean more pressure to be allowed to buy goods, such as cars, that are much cheaper elsewhere in the European Union. Internet shopping, allowing consumers to buy from stores anywhere in the world, will make it more difficult for retailers to hide.

Inflation may continue to abate in the year ahead, and deflation take hold in many sectors: those shopping centres attracting the crowds yesterday were those containing shops offering the heaviest discounts, such as Lakeside in Essex. But a fall in prices need not always be feared. in Britain at least. For all the cries of pain from High Street shops, it will constitute a correction to their over charging, and a welcome end to the complacency that has allowed them to live on their past glories for far too long.

Who is person of the millennium? Someone rather like me, I expect

THE BEST game in town at the mo- but imagine for the moment a meetment (the Mandelson affair having reached a premature climax almost these isles exactly 1,000 years ago. before the foreplay had begun) is one invented by Radio 4's Today programme. It's called "Personality of the Millennium", and listeners are invited to write or e-mail in, and vote for the man or woman who they think most deserves this accolade.

No firm criteria have been established, but various nobs have been asked their views. The Archbishop of Canterbury chose a martyred predecessor, Thomas Cranmer, while William Hague defied those who expected him to pick Pitt the Younger or John Major, and enterprisingly plumped for Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin. Other grandees have penetrated the early morning chaos of kids, nappies, breakfast and ablutions to suggest Shakespeare and (did I dream it?) Pope John XXIII.

It is all, as the BBC's Peter Snow used to say when his by-election computer showed a potential Labour majority of 179 at the next election, "just a harmless bit of fun"; the equivalent of the "Lifetime services award" at the Oscars, where some popular hasbeen, no longer a threat to anyone,

gets a big round of applause. I would suggest that - at the end of the next millennium - we sharpen the thing up by awarding a large cash prize, or a trip to Alpha Centauri, to the winner. But fun or not, such exercises are very interesting for what they say about us. These may be forced and artificial choices, but they are

choices nevertheless. Let us return to that thought later, ing in a wintry hall somewhere in

Over the beer and mead, as the chicken bones pile up on the mud floor. three men and one woman are playing the same game as us. They are: Brother Edgar, a tonsured monk of the Abbey of Whitby; Aethelwold, a wealthy thegn (or is he an ealdorman?); a blond, muscular Danish adventurer with a scarred face who answers to the name of Thorkil Thunderthighs, and "intermittently" a serving wench of dubious parentage, called Jutta.

The wind howls through the eaves as they all agree on one thing - it has been a very Dark Age. And they also accept Brother Edgar's one ground-rule, which is that Jesus himself is not a potential nominee. (Thorkil mutters that, by Odin, this is fine by him.) At first the thegn, Aethelwold is inclined towards Alfred the Great, on the basis that he united Saxon England, created a navy, defeated the Danes and translated Bede into Anglo-Saxon. Compared with the current apology for a monarch, Ethelred (25 years on the throne, and still not Ready), Alfred

looks pretty good. Thorkil snorts. If the Danes have been defeated, he demands, how come they run half of England? If he can't have the current Norse hero, Sweyn Forkbeard, then it's either Charlemagne of the Franks, or Erik the Red, discoverer of Greenland, for him. He does not know that - even as he quaffs - Erik's son, Leif, is sighting the coast of North America. Not that it



DAVID **AARONOVITCH**

How is it, she asks, that there are no women on their list? What about Boudicca, or those women of Rome?

Brother Edgar has the advantage of a classical education. He dismisses Caesar Augustus partly for his paganism and partly for falling outside the scope of the competition by being born before Christ. Attila was, when all is said and done, just a Hun. Among kings, then, Edgar goes for Constantine the Great. But he urges the others to think about the contribution made by the Church to such European civilisation as can be said to exist. Without monasteries, would any great manuscripts have survived? Would the flame of culture not have been extinguished?

He is torn between St Benedict, and our very own Venerable Bede, whose Life of St Cuthbert, is, he tells a scoffing Thorkil, something of a modern classic. However, if push comes to matters, because nothing comes of it. shove, he's going to choose a bloke

millennium, good old Paul of Tarsus. He is interrupted by the smashing of earthenware. Jutta, who has been alternately serving jugs of mead and offering her body to passing pedlars, has come over all premature feminist. and hurled a tray of beakers to the ground. How is it, she asks, that there are no women on their lists? What happened to Boudicca of the Iceni, or (of more recent provenance) Aethelflaeda, Queen of Mercia and Hammer of the Danes? Or even all those women of Byzantium, Rome. Ravenna and elsewhere, who had to keep the hearths warm and the bairns safe, while their menfolk went out and

A post-coital pedlar, who has travelled a little, sympathises with Jutta, but keeps his council. Perhaps this would not be the best place to remind the company of that Arab prophet, Mohammed, and his dramatic impact on the modern world. And he's heard tell of India and far China, with their powders that go bang, huge walls that span continents, and fabulous wealth. But all that could all be rubbish. The pedlar himself cannot know that, across on the other side of the planet, on a peninsula later to be named Yucutan, there is a city called Chichen Itza, that is greater than almost any in the Western world.

slew each other?

He can't, but we can. In the thousand years that we survey retrospectively, most major happenings on Earth are known to us. Yet, as far as I can see, our inclinations and attitudes are nearly as parochial as those of the winter travellers of late 998. The afraid. What about you?

right from the very beginning of the emperors and philosophers of China do not appear on our lists, nor do the builders of great wonders in Central Asia. Poets who had the misfortune to write in Persian or Hindi fail to qualify. And Jutta's (admittedly ahistorical) pleas are still going unheard. Indeed, for the most part, we seem to believe that the competition was entitled "Male Anglophone Personality of the Millennium".

Insularity is quite an important part of the Angiophonic culture, and is taken to its extreme in the United States. I well remember meeting a representative of the United States Students Association in Weimar, East Germany in 1980. She was studying poliics, but was unsure which country Moscow (where the Olympics were about to be held) was in. Was it Russia, she asked?

Given that this is so, it's a bit cheeky, this Personality of the Millennium lark. There is a good, democratic argument for saying that it's only valid if everybody from every country, who has lived during the last thousand years, is allowed to vote. So we should all be furnished with a copy of the entire second millennial electoral register, complete with full biographical details, and then permitted to make our choices.

On that basis let me now tell you who gets my vote for Personality of the Millennium - the one human being, born between 1000 and 2000 AD, who has made all the difference as far as I am concerned. And yes - it's me. Let me take a bow. Another middle-class, white, English-speaking male, I'm

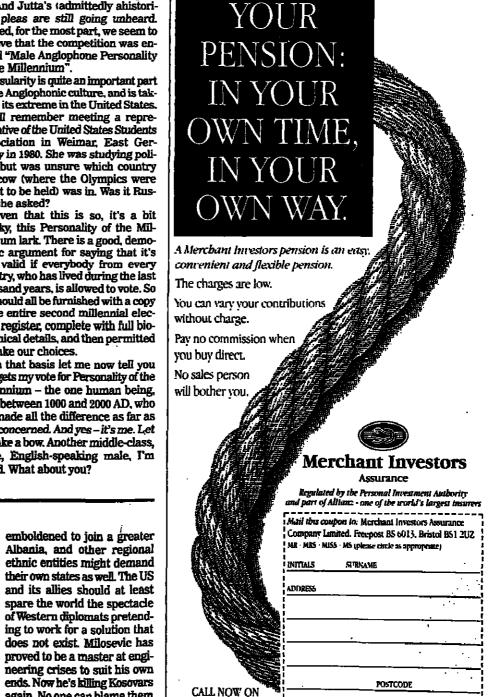
QUOTE OF THE DAY

"People just aren't as materialistic as they used to be." Ann Grain.

British Retail Consortium

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Silence is as full of potential wisdom and wit as the unhewn marble of great sculpture." Aldous Huxley. British novelist and essayist



Are you EXPLOYED or SELF EMPLOYED? (phrase circle)

If EALITAIN suc sure to korn comband beariou septeme

FIGHTING HAS again erupted even the lives of the verifiers in Kosovo, shattering the are in jeopardy as an all-out ceasefire between Kosovo and Yugoslavia. Providing for a The people in Kosovo will also truce between the two parties, have to deal with the treacha withdrawal of Serb forces from Kosovo, and the safe re- leaves them out of reach of huturn of refugees to their homes, manitarian aid. The situation is the agreement has always again urgent: the international been frightfully fragile. As such community must intervene to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe mobilised 2,000 unarmed per- sure the right of the Kosovars sonnel to verify the imple- to live in peace. mentation of the deal. But now Gulf Times, UAE

war threatens to engulf them. erous weather that sometimes guarantee Milosovic's compliance with the ceasefire, and en-

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

International opinion on the breakdown of the Kosovo ceasefire agreement

THE HOPE of a negotiated end weeks ago. The increasingly to the Kosovan situation has popular KLA is insisting on again disappeared with the renewed violence. Negotiations which had scarcely got off the like the sword of Damocles ground broke down some above the head of the "moder-

being involved in the negotiations. Its insistence is hanging

ate" Kosovan "president", emboldened to join a greater Ibrahim Rugova, who advocates a pacifist settlement. Belgrade has no intention of talking with the KLA, who it describes as a "terrorist organisation" while urging the rest of the international community to do the same Libération, France

THE WEST realises that there are dangers in supporting Kosovar independence. Albanians in Macedonia might be

and its allies should at least spare the world the spectacle of Western diplomats pretending to work for a solution that does not exist. Milosevic has proved to be a master at engineering crises to suit his own ends. Now he's killing Kosovars again. No one can blame them for not trusting him.

0800 374857

FOR A BROCHURE

Albania, and other regional

The Wall Street Journal

RIGHT OF REPLY

J M AMIR

The Malaysian High
Commissioner
replies to Anwar
Ibrahim's criticisms
of the Malaysian
Government

ANWAR IBRAHIM'S article is a desperate attempt to cast aspersions on the integrity of the Malaysian Government and its Prime Minister. He was dismissed from office on account of his alleged misuse of power and sexual misconduct, offences that call for indictment.

It would, therefore, be very misleading to imply that his arrest is politically motivated. He was arrested on 20 September 1998, under the Internal Security Act because he had acted, and was about to further act, in a manner prejudicial to the security of Malaysia, by instigating the people who attended his gathering to go against the democraticallyelected government. Anwar Ibrahim was released unconditionally from ISA detention on 14 October 1998, but he continues to be remanded in custody pending his trial, since he was not allowed bail on the grounds that he might tamper with witnesses relating to his charge, if released. The trial itself is already well into its 33rd day today. In Malaysia, trials have always been fair.

Malaysia has respectable legal and judicial procedures in place that are independent of the executive. The many prominent lawyers enlisted to defend Anwar Ibrahim in court give credence to the openness and fairness of the judicial system. The trial is not about power, but truth.

We would also wish to mention that the Malaysian press discharged its responsibilities in a balanced manner, not merely to serve the interests of one man. The foreign media accuses the Malaysian government of controlling the press, but the foreign media is doing the same - it has hardly given the Malaysian government's side an airing. Malaysia has always allowed dissent and there has always been a group of vocal oppositionists in Parliament, ever since 1955.

Until his dismissal. Anwar Ibrahim was a senior member of the Cabinet, which decides on measures necessary for the economic recovery of the country. He was party to all policy decision of the National Economic Recovery Plan (NERP), which was unanimously endorsed by the Malaysian Cabinet in July 1998. The NERP itself was arrived at by consensus, after thorough discussion by prominent people from the relevant bodies in Malaysia.

It is, therefore, a falsehood for anyone to suggest that PM Mahathir Mohamad is the sole architect of Malaysia's economic programmes. We Malaysians believe that the NERP is putting the country on the right course.

We'll be knock-kneed with sexual exhaustion

SOME OF us can see it now. As 1998 limps away into the past – an odd, aching, restless year with a peculiar talent for unhappiness - the reason for it all becomes clearer. It was not global warming, nor the collapse of the Southeast Asia tiger economies: nor is it the defeat of socialism at the hands of the enterprise culture, nor the effects of El Niño, as many have argued. It is all much simpler than that. Those of us with the time to worry about such things - that is the whole of Western society - are simply in the early stages of a group mental breakdown caused by acute calendar anxiety.

The author of a book called Millennial Prophecies, Stephen Skinner, has tried to reassure us, pointing out that, 1,000 years ago, a similar social phenomenon, which he comfortingly describes as mass hysteria, was occurring throughout Europe. "Some men forgave each other their debts; husbands and wives rashly forgave their infidelities; convicts were released from prisons; poachers made truces with their liege lords."



TERENCE BLACKER

The end of the millennium will be, to all but the most libidinally challenged, a sexual wake-up call

While some of these processes are already taking place – prisoners being released throughout Northern Ireland, the former paymastergeneral throwing money at any political colleague who is short of a bob or two – the problem facing us is simple: it's all going to get a lot worse over the next 12 months.

The new honesty between husbands and wives concerning past and present infidelities, for example, may be thought to be a healthy development in this age of apology, but already it has posed a problem in some marriages. Sociologists estimate that a small but significant proportion of married couples perhaps as high as 12 per cent – are still being faithful to one another on a regular basis, and therefore have nothing to confess.

coming year. The end of a millennium is a powerful social reminder of the passing of time and the inevitability of death which will act, to all but the most libidinally challenged, as a sexual wake-up call. Like a group of animals under severe stress, or like pilots due to fly into action on the morrow, we shall experience a powerful, all-embracing urge to mate with virtually anyone. Noting the universal contagion of fast, angry, tearful sex between strangers, trivial-minded

journalists may, from force of habit.

describe this social process as

This is likely to change over the

"casual sex". This is to miss the point completely: the more meaninglessness the chance encounters they experience, the more meaningful they will be to the participants.

The usual Daily Mail columnists will bleat and bray about the decline in moral standards, resisting for as long as possible the demands of their own lower natures, before they inevitably succumb in a messy, psychologically complex way. Many will follow the example of the famous blood-and-thunder moralist who this year was revealed to enjoy being put across his mistress's lap and spanked with a deluxe leather-bound edition of the St James Bible. We can expect exceptional sales of the Holy Book during 1999.

the Holy Book during 1999.

Yet, as we become increasingly obsessed with sensual pleasure (the feverish, decadent obsession with food is likely to tighten its grip on the television schedules), a great spiritual yearning will also become evident. It will be the year of the public therapist. Bishops will do a lot of talking, and may even be taken seriously on occasions. Creative

artists will become moral and spiritual arbiters. Politicians and journalists will be replaced on Question Time by the new heroes of the age: Beryl Bainbridge, Pam Ayres, Robbie Williams and Sir David Hare. The new poet laureate, Andrew Motion will become a regular guest for Anna Raeburn's share-yourpain phone-in on Talk Radio, dispensing gentle, and occasionally lyrical, views on matters of commitment, kids and co-dependency.

Because, as is already becoming clear, we have entered an age in which thought has surrendered the field to feeling. The new taboo, replacing sex (now regarded as a banal, everyday appetite to which we all have a right), is caring and compassion, about which no commentator or satirist will dare to joke. The past year has shown how any memoir treating illness or suffering in a frank, autobiographical manner, will be praised as a masterpiece by critics terrified to be thought heartless. Such will be the new addiction to sentiment that, in the coming months, an Insensitivity Act will be

amended to Jack Straw's Crime and Disorder Bill and announced in the Queen's Speech, during which Her Majesty will break down. Budget Day will be delayed because the Chancellor is feeling depressed, and in the autumn, a talented and charismatic five-year-old from Hackney will be appointed the new Minister for Children and Animals. This time next year, the Christmas hit will be What Was My Name Again, a number sung by Alzheimer sufferers, backed by a choir of primary schoolchildren, and arranged by Sir Paul McCartney.

I can see that the later stages of our global crack-up may not appeal to everyone, but the advice of pundits is that to fight these premillennial impulses is like trying to resist history. Remember that, at this time next year, as we face the next 1,000 years, bloated, tearful, knock-kneed with sexual exhaustion, our prisons groaning with those who have not cared enough, the feverish nightmare of our breakdown will be almost over, and that normal life will soon resume once more.

Having scuppered the inspectors, let's not fail the Iraqi opposition

ONCE AGAIN, bombing Iraq has resulted not in the humbling of Saddam Hussein but in new challenges to the US and British rump of the Allied forces who went to war against him in 1990.

Bloodied but not bowed, Saddam is no longer challenging just the weapons inspectors of the United Nations Special Commission (Unscom), but the no-fly zones patrolled by British and American planes in Northern and Southern Iraq.

Almost three months after the US Congress passed the Iraq Liberation Act, endowing the Iraqi opposition with \$99m (£61m), including \$97m for arms and training. Saddam is obsessed by the fear of a Westernbacked uprising in Iraq. Unscom no longer poses a real threat to his regime: long weakened by divisions within the Security Council, the inspectors' only route back to Baghdad after Operation Desert Fox lies in political compromise that will fatally undercut their ability to operate. But the Iraq Liberation Act could activate the latent opposition to Saddam's hated regime, and bring about a replay of the popular uprising of 1991 – backed this time by organisation and no-fly zones able to enforce a military exclusion zone from the air.

Nowhere is Saddam's concern more apparent than in the Baghdad press, which incessantly warns of the dangers of partition, and in his effort to rally the Arab states to demand an end to Western intrusion. In the days since Desert Fox ended, Saddam has used every contact he has in the Arab world to put pressure on pro-Western Arab governments. The United Arab Emirates has called for an Arab summit. There have been demonstrations from Egypt and Morocco to Syria.

Egypt and Morocco to Syria.

But under his bluster Saddam knows that anti-aircraft fire will not demolish the no-fly zones. His only hope lies in continuing the tension,



JULIE FLINT

A new policy is needed if Saddam is not to re-arm behind a charade of watered-down inspections

in provoking the United States and Britain into further acts of "aggression" like yesterday's American attack on his air defence sites.

On the other side, however, Washington's commitment to liberating Iraq appears limited by the fiction that Unscom can still be an effective weapon. Tony Blair has even held out hope of "a new and better regime". After the bombing, the pretence—not only that Unscom may survive Desert Fox, but that it may emerge strengthened, to continue its search for weapons of mass destruction.

The view from Unscom is very dif-

ferent. Even before Iraq asserted that Desert Fox had "killed Unscom", the mood among weapons inspectors was grim.

"We are the skunk at the garden party, because we continue to demonstrate that Iraq has not done what it has to do," says a senior Unscom official. "We have made the Security Council's policy look ineffectual and [Secretary General] Kook Annan's agreement with Iraq look useless. All the Council wants to do is pat itself on the back and boast about its contribution to world peace. Ditto for the 38th floor [where the Secretary General has his of-

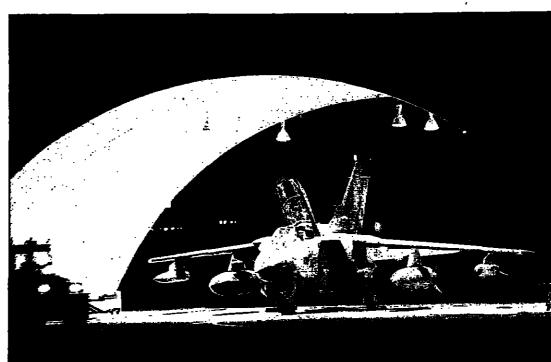
fices). I don't rule out that we will be back doing work in Iraq in some fashion. But what passes for a brains trust on the 38th floor is not going to make us more effective."

Of all the weapons used against Saddam since he sent his troops into Kuwait, Unscom has been the most effective. The most intrusive inspection regime ever devised, it uncovered an arsenal of nuclear. chemical and biological weapons that exceeded the experts' worst fears - an arsenal so important to Saddam that he has forfeited some 100 billion dollars in oil sales in order to preserve it. Unscom also confirmed Saddam's will to use his arsenal, reporting that chemical and biological weapons were deployed on the battlefield in 1990 with authority to fire them pre-delegated to field commanders.

In the past seven years, Unscom has destroyed much of Saddam's weaponry. But Iraq has yet to give a full accounting of its production of VX gas, the most toxic nerve gas in its possession, and still has to define the full scope of its biological warfare programme. Only last year, a full six years into an inspection meant to last only a few weeks, a British inspector discovered that Iraq was close to weaponising ricin – a lethal plant toxin previously known only as a weapon of assassination.

The same inspector believes that much more remains to be discovered. "We still don't know all the people involved in the BW programme – we haven't even identified the head of the programme – and I for one believe we have only seen a slice of it. In all its others weapons programmes, Iraq has followed multiple routes with multiple teams. We can't prove it's the same with BW, but we're worried."

But not worried enough, in the opinion of some. The opposition Iraqi National Congress claims that Iraq is also continuing work on its ic Energy Agency (whose inspectors gave Iraq a clean bill of health even as it was developing a vast A-bomb programme) and the Organisation



An RAF Tornado in Kuwait being prepared for action

PANDORA

Andy Stenning

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nuclear programme, importing significant quantities of heavy metals like titanium through Dubai and despatching agents across the former Soviet Union in search of fissile material for four implosion bombs believed to have been assembled.

But rather than remind the big five of the fundamentals agreed on in 1991 – the need to find and destroy all Saddam's weapons of mass destruction, and then to put in place a monitoring regime – the Secretary General is seeking to make Unscom more politically acceptable. Consideration is being given to placing its component parts in other UN bodies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (whose inspectors gave Iraq a clean bill of health even as it was developing a vast A-bomb

for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons – monitoring agencies which lack Unscom's robustness and investigative powers. The Unscom inspectors are in no

doubt as to what this would mean. "The bombing has set Unscom back light years," says one source. "Dilute it any more and it would be dangerous." Given the disarray in the Security Council, any future inspection regime can only be a pale imitation of the regime that existed before Desert Fox.

before Desert Fox.

The international community's best effort to render Saddam Hussein harmless has failed, and a radically new policy direction is needed if Saddam is not to hide – and re-arm – behind a charade of watereddown inspections. Barring a miracle in the Security Council, that

policy can only be to support the Iraq National Congress – the most serious attempt since the Gulf war to establish an all-Iraqi opposition movement to overthrow Saddam.

Badly weakened by Allied indecision as well as by its own internal tensions, the INC has made major strides in recent months towards reconstructing the consensus that existed after the Gulf war. It has also drawn up a plan of military action with the help of retired General Wayne Downing who, as commander of US Special Forces until 1996, harassed Saddam's Scud launches in the Gulf war and restricted his operations in the Western desert.

Supporting the INC is not without its dangers. But the Allies have failed Unscom. They must not now fail the opposition.

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months with some trepidation. What should he choose as his New Year's resolution? While he sits on the beach in the Seychelles, still reeling from all the New Labour "outings" and financial disclosures of the past few months, the hot tropical sun beating down on his milky brow, how can Tony possibly make this important decision alone? Fortunately. Pandora is willing to come to the Prime Minister's assistance. Readers are invited to send, fax or telephone this diary their suggestions for Tony's New Year's resolution by

WITH THE sudden departure of

strategist in the Cabinet, Tony

Blair must regard the next 12

Peter Mandelson, his chief

noon on Thursday. Pandora will then forward them all to Downing Street in time to be communicated to the Prime Minister before midnight, Seychelles time. And for the originator of the resolution that Pandora thinks most befitting: a bottle of delicious Orkney Islands malt whisky.

the main "attractions" of a very

"Alcohol and School: Why every

child should get it" to be held in

sobering evening entitled

Pandora thinks most befitting: a bottle of delicious Orkney Islands malt whisky.

JANET STREET PORTER and Ann Widdecombe MP comprise

The Sunday Tel That was not New Labour wh New Statesman weeks ago. There the "increasing those of mediocs the top by virtue."

April at the ICA. The discussion is one of a series of events organised by the Portman Group. It will no doubt be an enlightening occasion as Janet is no stranger to the dangers of alcohol: she had a glass of champagne thrown at her earlier this year at the Groucho. Tory Ann Widdecombe is no stranger to the "wet and dry" dialogue either. And don't be surprised by the invitation's promise of

THE EBULLIENT society hostess, Carla Powell, was quick off the mark to support her friend Peter Mandelson, describing him as a veritable puritan, the Stakhanovite equal to Magie Thatcher, boss to her husband Sir Charles Powell, in

'drinks and canapes". After all,

the Portman Group is sponsored

by the drinks industry.

The Sunday Telegraph.

That was not quite her view of New Labour when she offered the New Statesman an article only two weeks ago. Then she railed against the "increasing ease with which those of mediocre talents rise to the top by virtue of their flexible principles and capacity for self-

promotion."

And what happened to those most prescient of observations?

She called up, according to the New Statesman, to say that her husband (whose brother, Jonathan, is Tony Blair's chief of staff) thought it impolitic.

AFICIONADOS OF West Indian cricket have long regretted the departure from the team of evocatively named Floyd Reifer. However, they are now delighted by the appearance of a new name on the team sheet: Darren Ganga. He batted in 94 runs against South Africa on Boxing Day. Truly smokin!

ACTRESS MEG Ryan seems to be having a bit of difficulty combining her "girl next door" image with her Hollywood megastar status. Not content with a series of cloyingly cute romantic comedy roles, she is very keen to portray the suicidal poetess Sylvia Plath on screen (as reported by Pandora on 14 May). Most recently. Meg gave an interview in which she was asked if it was difficult to maintain an ordinary lifestyle when, in fact, you were a major celebrity. "Honestly? No," Meg gushed, then recounted her most recent family holiday - at a resort in Java. "It was unbelievable. There was a

waterfall that took forever to get to and wild pigs running around." Ryan earned \$10.5m for her last film appearance and lives on a ranch in Montana with its own gokart track.

PETER O'TOOLE (pictured) was represented in all the Sunday newspapers' "quotes of the year" features this weekend "The only exercise I take is walking behind the coffins of friends who took exercise." said O'Toole There's go doubt this is a witty remark. After all, it was amusing more than 100 years ago when first uttered by Mark Twain.

احكذا من الأعل

Istion

Irene Hervey

A DIMPLED beauty, Irene Hervey was a popular film performer of the 1930s and early 1940s who starred with her husband Allan Jones in The Boys From Syracuse. Their son, Jack Jones, is the popular singer, and though Hervey's films included such classics as The Count of Monte Cristo with Robert Donat, and Destry Rides Again, in which she won the hero James Stewart, she is now more remembered for her extensive later work in television, and as Jack Jones's mother.

The daughter of a sign painter, Hervey was born Irene Herwick in Los Angeles in 1910. She married a musician while still in her teens, and four years later was a young divorcee with a baby girl to support. A friend introduced her to a casting agent at MGM, who suggested she train as an actress after which he would arrange a screen test.

Hervey's mother was a practitioner of Christian Science, and one of her pupils was the veteran actress Emma Dunn, who agreed to become the girl's coach. A successful screen test at MGM ensued, and Hervey made her film debut in King Vidor's drama The Stranger's Return (1933), playing the wife of an Iowa farmer, Franchot Tone. She also played a small role in Hollywood Party (1933). and was featured in two Pete Smith shorts, Attention Suckers and Taking Care of Baby (both 1934).

In the Crime Does Not Pay tworeeler A Thrill for Thelma (1935), she starred as a young girl who tries the easy route to a life of houry and ends up in prison, but Hervey spent most of her time on loan to other studios. including Fox, Paramount, United Artists, Columbia and Monogram. At Fox, she played the female lead in Chartie Chan in Shanghai (1935), one of the best of that excellent series, in which the detective used her powderpuff to disclose finger-prints on a gun.

At MGM, she became briefly engaged to their rising young star Robert Taylor. Both the studio and Taylor's possessive mother disap-

vey later stated that it was the actor's "impossible jealousy" that caused their romance to end. Shortly afterwards, at a party given by the director Raoul Walsh, Hervey met Allan Jones. "By the end of the evening," stated Hervey, "we had become entranced with each other." Jones's first wife, Marjorie Buell, received her divorce from him on 25 July 1936, and the very next day Jones and Hervey were married. Their son John Allan (later known

as Jack Jones) was born in 1938. Hervey asked for her release from MGM shortly after her marriage, and she was then signed by Universal, where her husband was under contract. Her first film for the studio, The Lady Fights Back (1937),

'A beautiful combination of delicately aristocratic poise and ease'

a B movie in which Hervey and dambuilder Kent Taylor fight to preserve local salmon ecology, set the pattern for most of the material given to her.

Though the studio kept the actress busy with approximately seven films a year, most of them were minor films, her best roles being in the Bing Crosby musical East Side of Heaven (1939), in Joe May's atmospheric whodunnit House of Fear (1939) and as the upright girl who (though somewhat colourless compared to the saloon singer Marlene Dietrich) wins the sheriff (James Stewart) in George Marshall's classic

western Destry Rides Again (1939). In the studio's very free adaptation of the Rodgers and Hart stage

proved, feeling marriage would be bad for the actor's career, but Her-Hervey was featured with her husband Allan Jones and sang the lovely "Falling in Love With Love", one of the few songs retained from the stage score. Less prestigious films in which she starred included Mr Dunamite (1940), pursuing Nazi saboteurs with Lloyd Nolan, Bombay Clipper (1942), helping the reporter lliam Gargan uncover a gang of international crooks, Frisco Lil (1942), as a croupier working to clear her father of a murder charge, and the bizarre thriller Night Monster (1942).

The syndicated columnist Jack O'Brian described Hervey as "a beautiful combination of delicately, naturally aristocratic poise and ease", and critics compared her to Myrna Loy, but the studio seemed unwilling to give her a major opportunity. The actress herself said that she was never ambitious, and announced upon her marriage to Jones that her family would always come "first and foremost". (Jones legally adopted Hervey's daughter Gail.)

In 1943 Hervey was seriously injured in a car crash, which led to an enforced retirement for five years. She returned to films (and Universal) to play the wife of William Powell in the comedy Mr Peabody and the Mermaid (1948), and displayed elegant sophistication in occasional character roles in such films as Chicago Deadline (1949) with Alan Ladd, and Manhandled (1949), Lewis Foster's intriguing thriller with starts with Hervey's apparent murder by her husband - it transpires that we are witnessing the husband's recurring dream.

Hervey and Jones were divorced in 1957, by which time Hervey had become a prolific performer on television. She acted in such prestigious live shows as Studio One, Playhouse 90 and Matinee Theatre, and was a guest star on Perry Mason, Burke's Law, Burns and Allen, Doctor Kildare and Ironside. For several seasons she had an ongoing role in the soap opera The Young Marrieds, in



Hervey and Allan Jones in The Boys from Syrucuse, 1940 Kobal

1965 she played a regular role on the series Honey West as the detective heroine's tough Aunt Meg, and in 1969 was nominated for an Emmy Award for her performance in an episode of My Three Sons. Her last screen role was in Clint Eastwood's powerful thriller Play Misty For Me (1971), as a wealthy San Franciscan who offers the disc-jockey Eastwood a job in network radio.

Still slender and elegant, with a stylish grey coiffure, she was given a position with the Valley Oaks Travel Agency in Sherman Oaks, California, and enjoyed taking advantage of the free travel her job offered, flying to attend her son's night-club openings all over the world. Both her

children had made her a grandmother. Though she stated at the time of her divorce that she would doubtless remarry, Joan Hervey never did. "To my surprise," she said in 1987, "I discovered solitude, something I had never experienced. I found it very much to my liking. And my children are very close, both in physical distance and in the even more important sense. I am greatly blessed and very grateful." TOM VALLANCE

Irene Herwick (Irene Hervey), actress: born Los Angeles 11 July 1910; twice married (one son, one daughter); died Los Angeles 20

Jack Hilton

JACK HILTON had a distinguished way that, unlike many ex-players, he playing career for Wigan and Great Britain, but undoubtedly made a bigger impact on the history of Britain's most successful rugby league club long after he had retired.

He was already a long-serving member of the large and unwieldy Wigan board of directors – indeed he was taking his turn as chairman when the club was turned upside down by a boardroom coup in 1982. Three relatively new directors -Maurice Lindsay, Jack Robinson and Tom Rathbone - wanted to reverse the club's decline by effectively taking it over, getting rid of the rest of the board and running the operation on what they regarded as a properly businesslike basis.

Hilton was an unlikely revolutionary, but his vision of the potential of the club was sufficiently similar for him to throw his lot in with the radicals. Although he ran a string of sports shops, Hilton admitted from the start that he did not have much spare money to invest, but the others saw the advantages of having him on board.

Unlike them, he was an ex-Wigan player and, according to Lindsay's recollection, "being well-known and respected in town was able to provide a friendly face for the revolution". Or, as Robinson puts it: "He made the four of us a good blend." So the Gang of Three became the Gang of Four, with Hilton included among the new directors for a "cut-price" £10,000 whilst six other members of the old board were unceremoniously dropped in rugby league's version of the Night of the Long Knives.

Hilton provided continuity and respectability by remaining as chairman and diluting the impression that flash arrivistes. Lindsay and, to a lesser extent Robinson, were the driving forces and Rathbone provided more to Hilton's role than that of a mere figurehead.

of Hilton's "quiet wisdom" and the December 1998.

was not consumed by nostalgia for the past, preferring to concentrate on what could be achieved in the future. That turned out to be beyond anyone's wildest dreams. Starting with the John Player Trophy in 1983

- their first trophy for 12 years -Wigan embarked on a campaign of collecting silverware that saw them dominate the British game to an almost unhealthy extent for over a decade. Hilton took his turns leading the team out at Wembley. but most of the time he remained a quiet, dignified presence in the background, looking on benignly whilst his beloved club demolished all comers.

Hilton handed over the chairmanship to Lindsay in 1987, but remained on the board until 1996. when he resigned in protest against plans to sell the Central Park ground, after completing more than half a century of involvement with his home-town club.

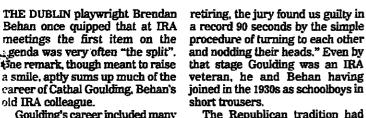
Although he first played professionally for Salford, he had joined Wigan as a young winger after being wounded by shrapnel in the wrist and thigh in North Africa during the Second World War. He was a regular in Wigan's excellent post-war side until 1953, when he took over as sprint coach. His Wigan career saw him score a prolific 122 tries in his 137 appearances, including a hat-trick or better on no less than 13

His most memorable year was 1950, when he was one of eight Wigan players selected to tour Australia and New Zealand. He played two Tests for Great Britain in each country - the sum total of his international career - but the most remarkable fact is that Wigan still managed to win the championship the club was being appropriated by final after more than half their team had departed on tour.

DAVE HADFIELD

much of the finance, but there was Jack Hilton, rugby league player and administrator: born Wigan 2 May 1921; married 1947 Olive Lindsay has referred to the value Smith (one son); died Wigan 23

Cathal Goulding



Goulding's career included many vears as IRA chief of staff, many more seeking to break into politics. and an exotic love-life which included having a son by Behan's widow.

He played a crucial role in Republicanism at the time of the birth of the Provisional IRA in 1969-70. He tailed to persuade the hard-faced of Belfast to follow him into Marxism, watching powerlessly as they instead marched off to fight the war which has cost so many lives in the last three decades.

The course of his career says much of how Republicanism has changed in the last half-century. In 1953 he found himself in a Hertfordshire dock together with the Republican Sean MacStiofain, with whom he later split, getting eight years for stealing a van-load of rifles. MacStiofain recalled: "Without

procedure of turning to each other and nodding their heads." Even by short trousers.

The Republican tradition had run for generations in the Dublin working-class Goulding family, his father and grandfather both having rebelied for Ireland. Cathal made his living as a painter and decorator, though it was a career interrupted by a total of 16 years spent in British and Irish jails.

His Hertfordshire escapade meant that he missed most of the IRA's disastrous "border campaign" in the late 1950s and 1960s, which ignominiously fizzled out in the face of overwhelming nationalist apathy. When, in the early 1960s, he became IRA chief of staff, he was leader of an organisation which barely existed.

For Ireland, however, the 1960s were a time of great modernisation and the challenging of long-accepted ideas, and the IRA itself changed. Goulding, linking up with left-wing



Defeat imperialism and capitalism in all of Ireland'

intellectuals, became attracted to Marxism and concluded it was time to broaden Republicanism's

Socialism and internationalism. which had always been strains within Republicanism, were elevated above gelignite and the Thompson

gun. Goulding later wrote that the IRA changed its slogan from "Get the British troops out of the north" to "Defeat imperialism and

capitalism in all of Ireland" In the heady days of the 1960s the IRA became almost hip. As Eamonn Mallie and Patrick Bishop

(2 Corinthians iv, 6)

wrote in their book The Provisional IRA (1987):

In 1969 Goulding was often to be found in the fashionable bars around St Stephen's Green, drinking with writers, sicians and painters, a recognised feature of Dublin bohemia

was closer to Berkeley campus and the Rive Gauche than the bogs and back-streets where the IRA tradition was rooted. Critics of his leadership invaribly portrayed him as a good but easiuenced man lallen among Marxist

The pubs of Dublin were a world away from the grim sectarian realities of Belfast, where August 1969 brought hand-to-hand fighting in the backstreets and the first deaths of the Troubles. Northern Republicans claimed that Goulding had fiddled while Belfast burned, and that what they needed was guns and not quixotic dreams of uniting Catholic and Protestant workers in a new utopia.

It was not long before traditionalists like MacStiofain broke away to form the Provisional IRA and Provisional Sinn Fein, leaving Goulding in charge of a much-depleted organisation which became known as

The riddle in the words of incarnation

the Official IRA. The Provisionals went on to dominate Republicanism in the north.

Goulding was left with most of the ideas but little of the manpower. He may have been hoping for broad left from the gun and into politics but in the north many of his men were opening fire on soldiers and the RUC. He found himself giving graveside orations over the coffins of Official IRA volunteers, often threatening retaliation for their deaths.

The Official IRA's most spectacular act of violence was also its most inept. This was the attack on the Parachute Regiment's Aldershot headquarters within weeks of "Bloody Sunday" in 1972, when paratroopers had shot dead 14 people in Londonderry. The seven people killed at Aldershot were six members of the domestic staff and a Catholic padre.

During the 1970s the Officials (or "Stickies" as they were nicknamed) killed about 50 people and had around 40 of their members and supporters killed in return. Many of the casualties were caused by out-

breaks of vicious feuding with the IRA and other republican groups. The Official IRA remains in ex-

istence, though today it is not so much an openly active terrorist organisation as an armed gang surreptitiously involved in running pubs, clubs and other business enterorises

In the south of Ireland Cathai Goulding and others moved towards more conventional political activity and the political mainstream. But again there were splits and again he ended up in the smaller faction, so that as his life ended he was attached to a tiny grouping.

His career thus began in the IRA at a time when it was an essentially inconsequential grouping, and ended in a politically inconsequential party. In between, however, he was witness to some formative events with historic consequences for all of Ireland.

DAVID MCKITTRICK

Cathal Goulding, political activist: born Dublin 30 December 1922; married (four sons); died Dublin 26

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTHS

BAILEY: To Delyse and Brian on December at Warrington, a n. Alastair James.

DEATHS

KAUFMAN: Dr Solomon (Sulli-van) died on 25 December 1998 at home, aged 90, after a long illat home, aged 90, after a long ill-ness courageously borne. Deeply mourned by his children Jonathan and Laura, his entire iamily and numerous friends and colleagues. Funeral private, memorial service to be announced later.

ANNOUNCEMENTS are charged at 6.50 a line (VAT extra).

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

BIRTHDAYS

June, Marchioness of

Aberdeen and Temair,

musical director and conduc-

tor. 85: Mr Andrew Bache. ambassador to Denmark, 59; Sir Richard Beaumont, former diplomat, 86; Lord Beaverbrook, former Chairman, Beaverbrook Foundation, 47; Mr John Connell. former chairman. Distillers Co, 74; Mr Bernard Cribbins, actor, 70; Baroness Denton of Wakefield, former government minister, 63: Miss Marianne Faithfull, singer and actress, 52; General Sir Robert Ford, former Governor, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 75; Mr David Hall, former Chief Constable of Humberside, 68; Sir Simon Hornby, President, Royal Horticultural Society, 64; Mr Terry Lewis MP, 63: Miss Mary Tyler Moore, actress, 61; Mr Martin Offiah, Rugby League international, 32; Mr Iain Paxton, rugby player, 41: Mr Peter Robinson MP, 50; Mr Alan Rusbridger, Editor, The Guardian, 45; The

Bishop of Birmingham, 52; Sir Kenneth Sharp, chartered accountant, 72; Mr Harvey Smith, show-jumper, 60: Mr Mark Todd MP, 44: Mr Jon Voight, actor. 60; Sir **Edward Stratten Williams** QC, former judge, 77.

ANNIVERSARIES Births: Charles Macintosh, chemist and inventor of waterproof clothing, 1766; William Ewart Gladstone, statesman, 1809; Vera Mary Brittain, author, pacifist and feminist, 1893; Klaus Emil Julius Fuchs, spy, 1911. Deaths: St Thomas a Becket, murdered 1170; Christina Georgina Rossetti, poet, 1894; Rainer Maria Rilke. poet, 1926; The Earl of Stockton (Harold Macmillan), statesman, 1986. On this day: Radio Luxembourg started operating, 1930; the City of London was the subject of a fire-bomb raid, 1940. Today is the Feast Day of St Ebrulf or Evrouit, St Marcellus Akimetes. St Thomas of Canterbury and St Trophimus of Arles.

THE WRITERS of the New Testament

were good Jews. They knew that they must not worship idols, lesser "gods" dressed up in the form of animals or human beings. But Jesus posed a problem for them. The only words that seemed to do justice to him came from the Old Testament's descriptions of God. So the first Christians rarely called Jesus "God" directly. But again and again they talked of him in language traditionally reserved for God: as Word or Wisdom, as Saviour, as Judge, as Lord. It was as if they were saying not directly, "This man is God"; but rather indirectly, "Here, in the space filled by Jesus, is a space filled completely by God." Why did they hesitate to speak

It is the same God that said "Let there

be light out of darkness" who has

shone in our minds to radiate the

light of the knowledge of God's glory.

the glory of the face of Christ

directly? Today too, some Christians are reluctant to call Jesus "God". The reason, however, is because they are frightened to water down his humanity. We know that Jesus was a real human being, made of flesh and blood like the rest of us. If we call him "divine" we risk turning him into a sort of super-man, or a demi-God, only superficially human. That, quite rightly, is not the sort of thing we believe in nowadays.

The early Jewish Christians hesitated too, but for a different reason. They were afraid, instead, of compromising the divinity of God. God was not

MEANINGS OF **CHRISTMAS**

MARGARET ATKINS

When God became man it was not in the manner which the Jews were expecting. The problems it threw up are no less tricky for us today a thing, a created object, but the

source of all created things. God could not be limited by time and place. He could not be touched or harmed or changed. He was too holy even to name out loud. Was it not blasphemy to identify almighty God with a mere human being? Yet they found themselves doing just that.

This was not what they had expected of the Messiah. They had been waiting for an inspired prophet, or a powerful king. They received instead someone who pushed their religious language to its limit. They received a man with whom God identified himself. The intangible God allowed himself to be touched, the invisible God allowed himself to be seen, here, in this man Jesus.

But, if this was not what the Jews expected, Christians believe it was the definitive answer to all the half-formed hopes and longings of the Chosen

People. Yet it was the answer not only for the Jews, but also for the dreamers of all the strange religions that the Jews had despised. And it was an answer that was shockingly concrete. The poet Elizabeth Jennings puts it beautifully in her "Meditation on the Nativity

All gods and goddesses, all looked up to And argued with and threatened . . . They disappear In fables coming true,

In acts so simple that we are amazed A woman and a child Placating prophets talked but here are All men have only praised

Before in dreams. Lost legends here are Not on to paper but in flesh and blood,

Painters' perceptions, visionaries' long Torments and silence, blossom here and

Listen, our murmurs are a cradle-song. This was how God kept His promise. He gathered up our fears and our fantasies and replaced them with something simple and solid. This is what God looks like now: a suckling baby, a carpenter sharing a meal with an outcast, a criminal hanging on a cross. This was not what we expected: yet somehow it satisfies: "Here are truths all men have only praised

before in dreams." The whole point is that He was simply a man. The Christians who are has allowed Himself to be defined in afraid of compromising Jesus's a mortal life. We see His glory in a humanity are right. God did not identify Himself with one of the anthropomorphic gods or super-heroes of the Margaret Aikins lectures in theology

self with an ordinary human being. exceptional only in that he was flawlessly human. In giving us an image of Himself. God also showed us what we ourselves should and could be like.

On the other hand, the Jewish Christians were right. It would have been wrong for us to take upon ourselves the identifying of God with a mere human being. If now we dare to do that, it can only be because God did it first. God has allowed us to use language about this man. God has encouraged us to trust that where we see Jesus, we see God.

In the passage with which I began, St Paul recalls the Old Testament story of Moses coming down from Mount Sinai after speaking with the Lord. His face shone so brightly with God's giory that the Israelites could not bear to look at it. Yet, St Paul argued, that glory inevitably faded. Now, however, God has allowed Christians to see that same glory in Christ, the image

Paul's language is daring. Yet it is also circumspect: we do not see God directly; we see the light of His glory reflected in Christ's face. This time, the glory does not fade: the gift has been given in permanent and concrete form. The legends have become a biography; and the visionary artists paint the everyday human scenes of childbirth, of a meal, of a death. God

Homeric myths. God identified Him- at Trinity & All Saints College, Leeds

human face.

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Right Rev Mark Santer,

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Can Cornwall survive the solar eclipse?

With a million visitors expected, England's poorest county has high hopes that this summer's spectacular will put it on the map. It could also be a total disaster. By Ann Treneman

n 11 August this year, at 11 minutes past 11am, something very strange will happen in Cornwall. Day will turn to night and will stay that way for two minutes and six seconds. This is what eclipse people call "Totality". The last time Totality visited the UK was in 1927. The next time will be in 2090. For most of us, then, this is it.

The Cornish are expecting an invasion. There is even a rumour that the county may sink into the sea under the weight of all the emmets. That is Cornish for ant and tourist. and anything from 750,000 to 4 million are expected. That's enough ants for any picnic, especially one that takes place in the dark.

This is the biggest thing that has happened in Cornwall since, well, possibly forever. The first reaction was the only sensible one: panic. Thus, there was talk of turning the county's main road, the A30, into a one-way system and dire predictions that there would be no water, food or even cream teas in the land. Sewage would overflow, and traffic would be gridlocked. GPs asked women to avoid getting pregnant in November The fewer women rushing to hospital on 11 August, the better. This inspired some to do the opposite. "Oh yes, there was an immense love-in," says Gage Williams, retired brigadier and county eclipse co-ordinator.

Gage Williams is a man whose time has come. He is the antidote to panic. There is a rumour that the eclipse will not happen without his say-so. He leads me through his presentation on his laptop computer. It is impressive, with swooping lines showing the eclipse's path from off the coast of Nova Scotia to the Bay of Bengal. Two fully-booked Concordes are following it the whole way. Now that is Totality.

Back here on Planet Cornwall, however, there is a 55 per cent chance that it won't even be a clear day. Williams frowns. Clouds, he says, will be fine because you can see the darkness racing towards you over them. But a rainy, foggy, horrible day would not be a disaster. He shrugs. If he worried about such

things, he would be a wreck. Instead, he is crisp and full of

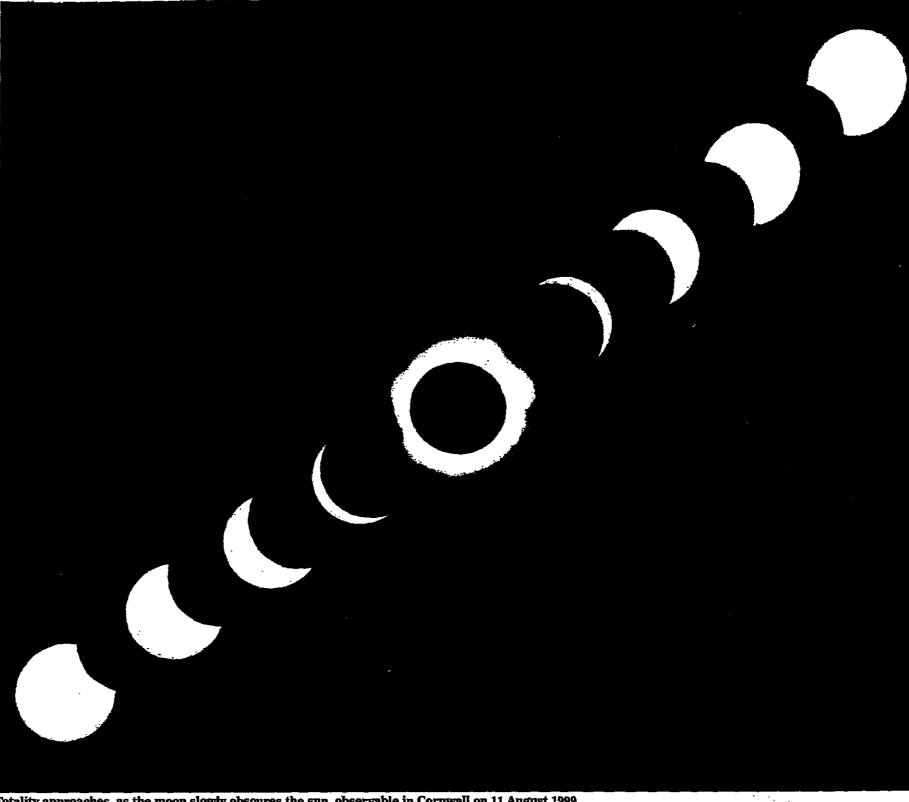
memorable phrases. For instance, he talks of VFRs. This turns out to be Visiting Friends and Relatives. "You never know how many will come!" He has a clipped voice that is not quite a bank, but is certainly that of a leader. He does not like to talk about road rage or even eclipse rage. Instead he talks of "friction". He is 52 and left the army two years ago. He sees this as a military exercise and claims there are no problems, only challenges. Leadership, he says, is mostly about enthusiasm.

This is handy because he's got

loads of it. What he has very little of is information. Numbers are crucial, and yet they are all so uncertain. Some say that 4 million could visit. In fact, that is what Matthew Taylor MP told Parliament in November (he is calling for an Eclipse Minister). But Gage Williams says that Matthew Taylor is a Lib-Dem. and therefore understandably liberal with his estimates. He thinks it will be more like 750,000 to 1.25 million, and has a theory that "numbers equal spare capacity on roads muldibiled by time". He spends a lot of time explaining this and produces another chart, this one a pyramid, showing how people will come for one week, two weeks or longer. Finally, however, we agree that actually he does not know.

History is on the side of the panickers. In 1927, 3 million made their way to the north to see 25 seconds of Totality. It remains the biggest ever recorded movement of people

on 11 August 1999, beginning 11.10am BST



Totality approaches, as the moon slowly obscures the sun, observable in Cornwall on 11 August 1999

by train in one day in the UK. Brigadier Williams does know that some 6,000 journalists are already scheduled to come, as are some 100,000 dedicated eclipse watchers (scientists, mystics etc.) from around the world.

Brigadier Williams does not want Cornwall to blow this opportunity. He doesn't want eclipse rage or greed (he is Cornish, and says it is in their DNA) to spoil it. This is the county's big chance for fame and fortune. This is a poor area and is about to be declared as such officially by Europe. But holiday-makers spend their money - £48 per day is one figure flying around - and that is a lot of cash even if a mere 1 million turn up. And if they like what they find, they may return.

This will put Cornwall on the world map," he says. He wonders

ENGLAND

Cherbourg

DORSET

TRACK OF TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

the year but where is Nike, Coca kind of thing that a megalomaniac would love to grab.

just like a pint of Guinness!" He points to a picture of Totality and I effect when the surface of the earth can't help but notice he is right. An- looks like a swimming pool." He sible one. But that is his job. He talks about sewage, and how to find extra milk tankers, and how to ship in bottled water. Talking to the former brigadier is mind-boggling, but that is because the eclipse and Cornwall are mind-boggling. Take Ian Walker, I find him up the

road at the Monkey Tree Holiday Park. He and his two brothers are in the holiday business and have set up Cornwall Eclipse 99 to create temporary villages for the big moment. They are campsites, except for the fact they will have their own sewage, water, shops etc. "I would call them townships, except everyone would think of Soweto," he says.

He then tells me that he is looking for military types to help run them, because they know about tented villages holding from 10,000 to 20,000 people. Experience as in what, I wonder: Bosnia? He nods, Except this, of course, will be Bosnia with pasties galore, and a county show atmosphere. There will be pubs, shops, amenities and even a place to kick a football around.

Mr Walker also has loads of enthusiasm. "This is the traditional Cornish holiday plus the millennium party with Totality on top of it!" he

YOU GODDA problem? Try

mirror and saying this. Fold

your arms, clamp your jaw,

raise one eyebrow and say

it very, very quietly. There.

Isn't that weird? Isn't it

slightly comical? And isn't

sexy? There. You've just

The tortured Grant

brothers, brothers-in-law,

crosses his path over the

EastEnders, is right up there with Minnie Caldwell

Immortality. And, though we

mums and anyone else who

experienced the Grant

Mitchell, who has been

punching walls, wives,

Mitchell effect.

past few years in

in the Soap Hall of

know we shouldn't, we

leave: Beppe may be

offering her New Man

girlies are suckers for it.

Bianca may fink 'e's a fug:

Simon may counsel her to

solace to make up for the

wiv 'er mum, but we all

fact that Grant's 'ad a fling

know why poor beleaguered

it, above all, disconcertingly

scary? Isn't it ever so

standing in front of the

why the eclipse has not attracted big says. I say that where I live, in Kent, sponsors. "It is the biggest event of there will be a partial eclipse. Mr Walker looks pained. "An awareness Cola, Rupert Murdoch? This is the is building in the national population about Totality. We will get this incredible two and a half hours around "Then you've got some natural sponsors. Guinness. This thing looks drops and the mist comes in. There is a diamond ring effect and a wave

46,000 of them - but you cannot ex- it sky cladding. People ask us what portable loos for two weeks. All of ours will be proper flush."

If Gage Williams is out to organto sell it, then Ed Prynn is just going to enjoy it. Mr Prynn is the selfappointed Arch Druid of Cornwall. house because there is a Stonehenge

pect the British public to live on we do then Nothing! Carry on the same as usual." Which is? "Dancing. And drums. Our band is called Eddie Hardrock and the Mystics!" ise the eclipse, and Mr Walker is out He laughs. Does he sing then? "No. we can't sing. We chant."

Druid plans are somewhat

sketchy for 11 August. Mr Prynn is and tells me that I cannot miss his planning a carnival-type thing with some weddings, lots of chanting and Glynis have a new stone to erect on the day. It is down at his son's place. It weighs three tons, is made of granite, and came from a quarry up on Bodmin Moor. They are getting up at 5am to make sure it gets put in its place, which is right in front of the picture window. I ask if it will have a name, because the seven huge stones in his henge are all named after women in his life tipcluding Great Aunty Hilda). He sa. : that it won't, but that it will be a stone for thinking about special people in your life.

> He and Glynis are excited because they know of no total eclipse where people have had a henge to dance round. They want anyone who wants to, to come and enjoy a day of dancing, chanting and doing the Conga. What? "That's the snake dance. They pinched it from the ancients," says Ed.

Later on we get to discussing how much organisation is involved preparing for this eclipse. "There is no need to worry. If you've go enough nerve to print it. I'll tell you that there are people waiting on the other side to step in." Who? I ask. Like Elvis? "Sir Winston," says Ed.

'Frankly, a partial solar eclipse is like watching the local football team play in your local park. Totality will be like watching the World Cup Final'

stops and then says; "Frankly, pertial is watching the local football team play in your local park. Totality is watching the World Cup Final."

Mr Walker is a good salesman. At the moment, he is taking bookings for seven sites. But, if the demand is there, he could have 20 sites. The campsites may have themes: there could be ones for surfers, families, scientists, people with planes. It is an expensive business. He says the capital outlay for say, 15 sites would be about £35m. He points to a Glastonbury poster. Its infrastructure only had to last three days; his

campsites need to last weeks. We fall to discussing toilets, as you do. He says that portable loos are simply not the answer. "For starters, we would need in the region of in the front garden. He is right, though he lives down a lane in the village of St Merryn that you could just as well abseil as drive down. Ed is 62, with longish white hair, and a thick Cornish accent. He sometimes gets so excited that he starts to shout in mid-sentence.

He can be confusing. At one

point, he admits that he still goes to the Methodist chapel. What kind of Druid is he? He says there are no rules. His partner, Glynis Kent, says she thinks she might be more of a Druid than he and that he just likes to dance around the stones with the High Priestesses. "I'm not ashamed. Ann, you can write this in your paper!" says Ed. "I've got no gates or anything secret here. Sometimes we do take our clothes off. We call

"It's going to run like a dream."

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE PROVISIONAL GRANT OF AN OFF-LICENCE The Octa in the Lucenses Instates for the Licenses district of Manafach for The Chief Constable, Nottinghambline Constables

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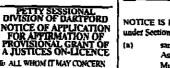
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10.11hm or 15th day of January 1990 for the alternation of the provisional grain dated 25th September 1990 of a instance incare authorising as to sell two retail intrincating liquor of all descriptous for consumption on and off the premises about to be constructed at Unit WILLIS. The Village, Burrwater, Greenbithe, Kent DA9 95E and to be known by the sign of "PizzaEuptres" of which promises Blueco Limited of York, London WC28 6U is the owner. Of the United WC28 6U is the owner. Of the United WC28 6U is the owner. Green under our hands this 12nd day of December 1998 Popoleston Allen Solictions for and on behalf of the applicant 37 Stoney Street, The Lace Market, Nortingham NGI 11.5

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 10th December 1998 the Court of Session pronounced an Order under Section 49 of, and Part 1 of Schedule 2C ("Schedule 2C") to, the Insurance Companies Act 1982;sanctioning a Scheme ("the Scheme") under which the whole of the long term business of Pegasus Assurance Limited ("Pegasus") is transferred to Scottish Mutual Assurance pic ("Scottish Mutual") with effect from 00.01 hours on 1st January 1999 ("the Effective Time");

transferring to Scottish Mutual the whole of the undertaking and of the property and liabilities of Pegasus with effect from the Effective Time, as provided for in the Scheme, such Order not to recome effective in respect of any Residual Assets, Residual Liabilities and Residual Polici defined in the Scheme) until the relevant Subsequent Effective Time (as defined in the Scheme); for the continuation by or against Scottish Mutual of any legal proceedings pending by or against Pegasus at the Effective Time, except that in the case of any such legal procordings relating to any Residual Asset. Residual Lunbility or Residual Policy the Order shall not become effective until the relevant Subsequent Effective Time;

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THE JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

26. GRANT MITCHELL BY SERENA MACKESY



Real Person Grant

Tiffany keeps on going back. Forget all those pretty boys put in to make the female heart flutter, real women like bad boy Grant. This is a mystery to all the world's real men, who simply can't see why grown women, who'd ruthlessly freeze real-life miscreants out of all social intercourse. go gooey at the sight of those bulging biceps, jaw and eyes. But Grant Mitchell is the reason most of us watch EastEnders, I first fell for those dodgy charms the day someone

stole the charity collection box from the bar at the Queen Vic. All the other characters rushed around. Grant just leant against the door, rolled his eyes and muttered: "Good old East End. Never lets yer down. This is his true appeal:

he's the boxer-philosopher, the shaven-headed romantic, the straight-faced comedian. Those eyes can go from shark to puppy dog in a single scene. He is, in

other words, a Real Person. For Grant is a first in the soaps, even in TV drama the multi-dimensional wifebeater Violent men on the box are usually little more than cyphers for domestic violence, one-dimensional monsters representing an act, not a state. Our comfort zones don't allow us, on the whole, to see the culprits as People Like Us: people who evince humour depression, generosity, cynicism kindness to old ladies. loyalty, genuine tears of remorse, deep thought.

someone for whom violence is a driving force: for him it explodes only when he can't

see the wood for trees. The domestic violence debate has been crying out for a dramatic character like this, who can move the debate on from a simple one of women as victims to include the concept of men as victims of themselves. Grant is a brilliant character, brilliantly written, and brilliantly played by Ross Kemp, who is undoubtedly one of

today's finest actors. Kemp brings to Mitchell a level of vulnerability that a lesser actor would have muffed entirely: even when he's shrugging on his bomber jacket and shouting "leave it arrt" or "it's doin' me 'ead in", you still see a lost kid who never learned to talk. And when Tiff goes under the wheels of a car while running away from another outburst, one thing is for certain - those tears deep affections. Grant is not be completely believable. of sorrow and remorse will

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HEALTH

In our rat-race society a good night's rest is regarded as wimpish. But such an attitude can be fatal. By Liz Bestic

Sleep perchance to do more

f you're feeling really smug for making your New Year's resolutions to cut out sugar and go to the gym three times a week, stop, Sleep researchers in the United States say that if you really want to improve the quality of your life. your best resolution for 1999 is to get more sleep. We are living in a sleep de-

prived society and unless we redress the balance and take sleepseriously, society will suffer the consequences in lost hour: at work and death on the roads," says Professor Jim Maa:, author of Miracle Sleep Cun, that promises the key to a lorz life of peak performance. Mas says that in the past 20 year we have added about 158 hous to our annual working and ommuting time - equal to a fu month of working hours.

Ad young mothers with chilren have added an astonishig 241 hours to their work and commuting schedules sinc the 1960s. "We now live in a 2-hour society, a rat race whre sleep is totally undervaled," says Maas. "With hery demands of work, householchores, parenting and family esponsibilities, plus a need for life outside work, four out of very 10 of us are cutting bac on sleep to gain time for oth things which seem more imprtant or interesting."

laas believes that - not on are we making ourselves sic through lack of sleep - but were biologically ill prepared to inction on minimal sleep, anthat our prehistoric genetic bleprint for sleep has not evived fast enough to keep up whithe pace of 20th-century sciety. "In this brave new wild, people who sleep six hers or less are regarded as haven forbid, you're tired, you sneone who lacks what it tres to be successful."

And yet all the research sows that people are chronially tired. Even a survey done this country by Sleep Counil researchers found 62 per ent of people are getting fewer ours sleep now than five years The pace of life is beoming faster and harder and the stresses and pressures of work are leading to longer working hours and disrupted sleep. If people are deprived of one or two hours of sleep every

says Maas.

night over years and years of a

lifetime - that takes its toll."

says Maas, research shows to have as much sleep at night." that humans are more likely to need an average of 10 hours a night. "In the sleep lab, people who average eight hours a night - who maintain they are fully alert during the day - and who then get an extra hour's sleep at night, find their productivity levels increase by 25 per cent. I'm not saying that everyone needs to get 10 hours a night, but it you go to bed just one hour earlier at night you will notice a significant difference," he says.

Sleep restores reinvenates and energises the body and brain. The third of your life that you spend asleep has profound effects on the other two thirds of your life in terms of alertness, energy, mood memory and performance. The brain tires itself out during waking hours and needs sleep to recover. People who - by choice or because of

In this brave new world, people who sleep six hours or less are regarded as being tough, competitive and ambitious

work, illness or force of circumstance - go without sleep for five to ten days become irrational, paranoid, confused and even hallucinatory.

Dr Adrian Williams - consultant physician at the sleep disorders centre at St Thomas's hospital and author of Doctor 1 Can't Sleep - believes that the Brits may be just bog tough, competitive and as sleep deprived as their abitious. But, if you dare to American counterparts. "We s' you need more sleep or, should be taking sleep depri- main totally ignorant of how vation much more seriously stand the positive aspects of good quality sleep. People need to be aware that instead of doing things which interfere with sleep - such as smoking, dull meeting or lecture to send drinking and taking stimulants - they should take time in the evening to wind down and go to bed earlier.'

It is not just lack of sleep which causes daytime tiredness either. "Anyone who lives with a snoring partner will suffer from the same sort of sleep deprivation as the person not going to bed early enough," says Dr Williams. "However, you don't need to catch up on your sleep all in one go. There But why dowe need all this is a natural period of sleepiness sleep? Surey if Margaret in the afternoon when it is ex-Thatcher coul get by on four tremely easy to fall asleep. By

The Americans have long been great proponents of "power napping". Indeed some US companies which have set up "nap rooms" claim to be reaping the rewards with a workforce that is more alert, has faster reaction times, and is better at problem solving, and these firms report increased creativity. Professor Maas recommends a power nap about

eight hours after you get up, "Even just closing your eyes for 10 to 15 minutes can make all the difference to your performance for the rest of the day," he says. So how can we tell if we are

getting the right amount of sleep? US sleep researchers use the Multiple Sleep Latency Test (MSLT). The rationale behind the MSLT is that the more sleep starved you are, the faster you fall asleep during the day. To take the test you lie in a darkened room for 20 minutes, or until your brainwaves show you have entered light sleep - which ever is soonest. The test is done four or five times a day and an average score reached. If it takes 10 minutes or longer to fall asleep then there is no need to worry. Anything less indicates moderate sleep deprivation. Research shows that just an extra couple of hours of sleep at night can make you more alert.

According to Maas each of us maintains a personal sleep bank account. We need enough sleep in that account to be able to function properly during the day. "Most people need to deposit at least eight hours of sleep in their account to cancel the sleep debt incurred by 16 hours of continuous alertness.

Maas maintains that by far the majority of us are significantly sleep deprived, yet remuch it affects our mood, per-

"We feel alert when we are engaged in vigorous, interesting and challenging tasks. But it only takes a warm room or a the truly sleep-deprived person dozing straight off," he says.

Perhaps the most severely affected of all sleep-deprived people are parents with new babies and toddlers. Sometimes their sleep debt seems insurmountable. "A new baby will result in 400 to 750 hours of sleep loss in the first year. Most parents of newborn babies are walking zombies, and it takes a couple of years to make good the sleep debt," says Maas.

Professor Jim Horne, director of Loughborough University's Sleep Lab remains



Parents of new-born babies lose about 400 to 750 hours of sleep in the first year

research. He argues that we and a small one in the after- is determined to spread the can all function fine on between six and eight hours sleep a night. Indeed, he believes that if we sleep too much we get "sleep fat" - just as when we over eat we put on weight. But what he does agree on is napping. "Humans are designed for two sleeps a day - one at night,

noon. This explains why people in sunnier climes have an afternoon siesta and why the rest of us feel sleepy in the afternoon," he says.

"People who increase their the meantime Professor Maas ment you will be more effi-

word out that we all need more sleep. "People say there are not

enough hours in the day to take care of the kids, do the shopping, clean the house, have leisure time and go to work. I night-time sleep find that this say that's baloney. If you meet afternoon 'dip' disappears." In your individual sleep requireColorific

namic and in such a better mood that you will take less time to do a lot more."

Miracle Sleep Cure' by James B Maas, Thorsons, £7.99. 'Doctor I Can't Sleep' by Dr Adrian Williams, Amberwood Pub-

hours a night prone can? But, taking a nap then you don't have sceptical about the American

Espresso to insomnia

I have head that both coffee and tea hive caffeine in them. Why is it ply coffee that keeps melwake at night? A cup of cfee has about 75mg of caffein and a cup of tea has about 30m. Cola drinks fall in between dffee and tea, with about 50ng of caffeine. Caffeine is a stimunt, and its effect, like most drus, depends on the dose. A co of espresso can be very effectve at ruining a good night's slip by providing a whopping 50mg of caffeine. Recent rearch has revealed another, respected effect of too much caline. Pregnant women who havenore than 150mg of caffeine day are more likely to miscarr han those who have less thathat amount, and more liky to have a baby who will be ullerweight at birth.

Becausof developing arthriti I have started taking glucosaine. The recommended dose is 820mg a day. By I have heard that a dose of 200mg is more effecti. Which is correct? There are been at least eight sciente studies of glucosamine over thast 20 years. Most of them ive used doses of 1.500g a day. The results of thesehow that glucosamine appes to be beneficial in redung pain and tenderness in arthic joints. Some of the

A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

studies have compared glucosamine with ibuprofen (a widely used painkiller available without prescription). These have shown the two drugs to be similar in their effectiveness for arthritis symptoms. There do not seem to be many reports of serious side effects from glucosamine, but some people do experience stomach pains, heartburn, diarrhoea and nausea. One possible problem with glucosamine is that it is sold as a food supplement, rather than a licensed drug, and so it is difficult to be certain about its purity.

What effect will a vasectomy have on a man's sexual enjoyment and performance? When a vasectomy is performed the tubes that carry sperm from

the testicles to the penis are cut, so no sperm is present in a man's semen after a vasectomy. (It may take several weeks for sperm to disappear from the semen, so it is important to have several semen analyses before relying on a vasectomy for contraception.) But the absence of sperm in the semen does not interfere with sexual enjoyment or performance. Semen is mostly made up of secretions from the prostate gland and seminal vesicles, and a vasectomy does not affect these secretions. So the amount of semen that is ejaculated is not reduced and the sensations of orgasm and ejaculation are not impaired. Once the discomfort of the vasectomy operation is over, sexual performance and enjoyment should return to normal levels. Indeed, some men find that sex is better after a vasectomy because the risk of pregnancy is removed. The risk of passing on or catching sexuallytransmitted diseases, however, is not affected by a vasectomy.

Please send questions to A Question of Health. The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL: fax 0171-293 2182; or email health@independent. co.uk. Dr Kavalier cannot respond personally to questions

Fighting social phobias

Drugs and DIY software can help, reports Roger Dobson

JANUARY SALES can be a real problem for Vivian Birch. On a bad day her social phobia is so severe she can't answer the phone, and even the prospect of talking to shop assistants or of travelling on public transport terrifies her.

"Sometime I'm so frightened of even the phone that I can't bear the noise it makes, and I have nightmares where the phone is walking up the stairs to strangle me in bed. Now I have an answer-phone which I use on a bad day so there is no chance of me having to talk to a stranger," says 29year-old Vivian. She is one of an increasing number

of people suffering with social phobia, or extreme shyness. It's a problem that peaks at this time with the pressures of New Year parties, office dos, eating out, and other social occasions.

For millions of people shyness like this is a chronic problem that can wreck lives, ruin any chance of a relationship and even lead to suicide. Some psychologists believe that the problem is increasing as people lose their social skills in an age of telephone-banking, automatic checkouts and tele-working.

These days you exchange information and not emotions. There is no sentiment, no face-to-face contact, no small talk, and some kids would rather play computer games than play with real live friends," says Professor Philip Zimbardo of Stanford University in the US, a leading authority on shyness.

American Psychiatric Association as a pronounced and persistent fear of social or performance situations in which embarrassment may occur, and it estimated there are around two million social phobics in Britain alone. Sufferers experience a range of symptoms that can include mutism and other speech problems, low self-esteem, social anxiety, loneliness, uncontrollable blushing, physical shak-

Nature and nurture, genes as well as social conditioning, are thought to play a part, and one research team working with twins reared apart, found around one in six of the population are born with a predisposition to shyness, although most shyness is thought to

ing, and extreme difficulties in form-

ing relationships.

be acquired in early childhood. "Over the past 10 years shyness has been increasing at the rate of around one per cent a year until now it is about 50 per cent which suggests there is something significant happening in our society which is increasing the

level of shyness," says Zimbardo. Vivian Birch, whose responses to socially phobic situations include mutism, dizziness and nausea, has tried a number of different therapies to ease her problems. She is currently taking Seroxat for the depression that is an integral part of social phobia for one

Social phobia is described by the anti-shyness pill, and increasing numbers of similar drugs are on the mar-

ket or in development. "Since January I have been taking Seroxat. I am finding it very helpful and it has made quite a difference to me. I don't see anything wrong with a drug for social phobia if it gets people to a stage where they can tackle the problem," she says.

Another new treatment for social phobia, computer-based psychological therapy, is being pioneered by The Maudsley Hospital and the Institute of Psychiatry in London.

The computer programme, Fear-Fighter, that Professor Isaac Marks and his team have produced, involves half-a-dozen one-hour sessions which show the patient how to use exposure therapy to confront his or her fear.

"The essence of our programme is about self-treatment. The types of homework that could be set for social phobia might be for them to ask someone the time at a bus stop, or to engage a stranger in conversation for one minute," says Professor Marks,

The Maudsley programme has been used by 90 patients, a third of them social phobics. The results are expected to conclude that it is as successful as face-to-face therapy.

The Maudsley self-care clinic is on 0171 919 3365. and the Phobics Society runs a self-help network, telein three sufferers. The same type of phone 0161 881 1937. formulation has been described as an

HEALTH **CHECK**



JEREMY LAURANCE

I HAVE invented a new diet and I am launching it today to a waiting world free, gratis and for nothing. I have called it the Wet and Dry diet, and I guarantee that if you follow it for three months you will find your bathroom scales pointing in the right direction.

The principle of the Wet and Dry diet is simple: you may not eat wet and dry foods at the same time. That's all there is to it. You may eat anything you like, in any quantity, so long as you obey this basic rule.

It means that you may not eat breakfast cereals (dry) with milk (wet). Nor may you accompany pasta (dry) with sauce (wet), although grated Parmesan is acceptable. Meat (dry) may not be accompanied by gravy (wet) but may be eaten with vegetables or potatoes, unless these are mashed or pureed. You get the idea.

Every reader will need to devise their own additional rules for this diet. A science-minded colleague suggested a hanana could be both wet (when mashed) and dry (when whole). Shepherds pie combines meat (dry) and gravy (wet). But it is acceptable because the ingredients are combined at the cooking stage and not at the table.

The point of this diet is to make eating difficult. It is the unacknowledged orinciple behind most diets. An equally effective diet would be one that forbade combining red and green food, or that required you to stand on your head while eating.

This inconvenient fact will not prevent millions of people turning to bookshops and self-help groups in the New Year in search of a new idea for losing weight.

We have already had the Hay Diet, the Scarsdale Diet and the Fnlan Diet, plus many more. Stand by for the 1,2,3, Success 2000 Diet from Weight Watchers to be launched next week.

Jane Dunkeld, author

of the Good Diet Guide. pours scorn on these diets in the January issue of Positive Health, the complementary medicine magazine. She says that much of the advice is contradictory, and hence confusing. For example System S. by Sally Ann Voak and Professor Anne de Looy, promised dieters they need not cut out sugar wbile Sugar Busters. by H Leighton Steward, claimed sugar was worse than fat.

Dr Dunkeld writes that whether you follow a high or low protein, high or low carbohydrate or high or low sugar diet makes no difference to losing weight: "All that matters is the calorific content."

Scientifically she is correct, but humans tend not to obey the laws of science too strictly, especially where their appetites are concerned.

The more helpful advice is to follow whichever diet helps you cut your calorie intake most effectively.

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1999 looks like being a tremendous year for those who appreciate art with their senses. By Tom Lubbock

Flesh, fabric, sex and money

fin de siècle or millennial anticipations. A good start at least -Portraits by Ingres: Image of an Epoch opens at the National Gallery. It wasn't so many years ago that Ingres was a byword for the slick and the square, a patron saint of enjoyed a reversal of critical fortune. Now he looks like a tremendous perve and weirdo - very much our cup of tea - and never more so than in his portraits, especially those of women. In Ingres' hands, these high-

bourgeois ladies become soft, human fillets. Their bodies are manipulated into extreme rearrangements, distortions which are only just covered by the exquisite skin painting and the opulent fields of frock. Formal affirmations of affluence and status they may be, or be meant to be. But the result is a fusion of economic and sensual luxury, swoony erotic melanges of flesh and fabric, money and sex in perfect harmony. His drawings are triumphs of the art.

There's danger in this sort of makes things worse for everyone. It was nine years ago that the Royal Academy put on Monet in the '90s a show so well attended that the the chance to study crowd move- ing - and being - posterity at work. ments in a confined space. I dare say Monet in the 20th Century will go much the same way.

The surprise, perhaps, is that there's a show there at all - a 19th Century painter, surely? But no, Monet lived until 1926. He worked on. his vision so disturbed by cataracts that sometimes he had to rely on the labels on his paint-tubes, and pursued his own course, hardly influenced by contemporary developments. But in his pictures of the gardens and ponds at Giverny, he created as strange a paintingworld as any of the younger modern artists. You may just catch a glimpse

You'll soon be hearing so much about Neurotic Realism that I won't say much here. It's Charles Saatchi's brand new made-up art movement. a slogan coined to promote his recent purchases now that the Young British Artist label has done its job. It seems a highly ridiculous gambit, and will doubtless prosper. The first installment goes on show at the

Saatchi Gallery in January. The career of Patrick Caulfield demonstrates the dispensibility of labels. Once he was called a Pop

artist. Now it's a little hard even to

good year ahead, it see why. His retrospective at the Hay-looks, happily free of ward Gallery will reveal a virtuoso of many paintings styles, though I think the Sixties pictures are still the real knockouts - the steady black outand some of the best of lines filled with luminous panes of it starts soon. In a month's time colour, the colouring in book principle turned to startling levels of beauty and intelligence.

Other February openings include a retrospective of John Everett Millais, the sanest Pre-Raphaelite, at the academic painting. But lately he's National Portrait Gallery, and a chance to see the drawings of an artist who always denied doing any in Francis Bacon: Works on Paper and Paintings at the Tate in London. Meanwhile at the Tate in Liverpool there's Richard Deacon: New World Order - new work by one of the leading British sculptors of the 1980s. Rather pompous collages of industrial stuffs they always seemed to me, but what it looks like now I don't know. By far the most interesting spring

prospect is the London Tate's Jackson Pollock retrospective. This is good macro-timing. The wild hero of Abstract Expressionism, "Jack the Dripper", the first star of US painting, died in 1956. A generation has grown up for whom Pollock's name is a legend, but his work almost unknown. To be honest, I've hardly looked at it myself, partly put off by advance publicity, of course. It just the existential Davey Crocket image. But now one expects the legend to fall away and something rather beautiful and old masterly to shine through. Or will it be something flash main thing it offered the visitor was and skimpy? Whatever, we'll be see-

> May brings Examining Pictures at the Whitechapel, a survey of the expanded field of contemporary painting - a good subject, and a show which one can predict pretty confidently will have a new and snappier title by the time it opens; I mean, they must want somebody to go to it. And at the Barbican there's New Art for a New Era: Kasimir Malevich's Vision of the Russian Avant-Garde: another good topic, marking a rare, brief moment of collaboration between an artistic and a political revolution, and another title in need of a little fine tuning.



The self-portraits of Rembrandt need no advertisement. They've become the great pictorial statements of honesty and mortality, of the human depths. They stand among the top icons of humanity itself, the sort of thing we'd like to send off into outer space, to show the ETs what a wonderful species we are - except that the ETs might not like oil painting or share our admiration for candour. But for those who do. there's Rembrandt by Himself at the National: 40 painted self-portraits, plus drawings and etchings too. It looks like being a good year in

particular for the painter Gary Hume. Born in 1962, he's the UK representative at the '99 Venice Bienale in June, and he's the subject of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art's Edinbugh Festival show. His pictures - in which simple images are translated into flat shapes painted in funny colours often seem very good, but I've never quite worked out what their trick is. It's something to do with being enigmatic but completely casual.

Hints for the second half of the year must inevitably be sparser and no, it's very nice to have a Biennial vaguer, anyway, you'll have forgotten on British soil, though with the world

them. Two rather interesting-looking, similar-sounding group things, both absurdly titled, emanate from the Tate Gallery. In London there's Abracabra: International Contemporary Art, opening in August - a foretaste, I guess, of the kind of show that the Tate Gallery of Modern Art, opening next year at Bankside, will be doing much more of. Then in Liverpool there's Trace: The 1999 Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art, which will "explore place, memory, materiality and mapping" (good grief). But

Musée des Beaux-Arts, Nantes

so widely tipped to end the following year, the word is perhaps a little hubristic. The Turner Prize will still

be there too. Autumn brings a big Van Dyck show at the Royal Academy. He's not a painter I've ever got much of a kick out of - how much better if it was a big Rubens show - but it promises plenty of religious and mythological pictures as well as his popular Stuart portraiture.

Two Italian avant-gardists command the stage in October At the Hayward Gallery there's a Lucio Fontana retrospective, the artist whose signature work is a blank, raw canvass, neatly slashed. At the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford there's Michelangelo Pistolletto: The Shifting Perspective, a homage to one of the founders of arte povera, and an artist whose activities are too various for any summary. In November, the London Tate shows Bloomsbury: Roger Fry, Vanessa Bell & Duncan Grant, an exhibition of the visual wing of the famous Group, which will demonstrate, beyond a doubt, that you can be a highly advanced, ahead-of-the-game artist, and absolutely no good at all. Please, you have my word for it.

INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S **GUIDE TO** CONTEMPORARY ART THIS WEEK: MARCUS RICHARDS

Marcus Richards was the only British artist out of 3.587 entrants from 92 countries whose work was accepted for Japan's Osaka Triennale exhibition, this year devoted to sculpture. His 7ft by 4ft Full Circle, shown here, was awarded the silver prize.

Richards, 42, is a parttime tutor at the Byam Shaw School of Art, London, and has his own studio in Bow.

He says: "International and national opens are the only available showcases for artists who are not represented by galleries. But reluctance by gallery owners and curators to recognise their importance perpetuates the incestuous dominance of commercial over cultural values. This is short-termism – as history will prove".

The paradox of references triggered by his Full Circle, with strips of beech wood upholstered on top with black studded vinyl, not unlike a giant computer mouse, gave one of the five Osaka judges a sleepless night. Yaguchi Kunio, chief curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, admitted to Richards: "At first, I thought it was a piece of Swedish furniture and rejected it. But that night I could not get it out of my mind and could not sleep. looked at it again and had to accept it.'

Richards says: "I enjoy perversity and humour. That is the point of access to my sculptures. They all have the feeling that they could be furniture, that they could exist in a domestic setting - and they all have to do with the way we want to possess things. I come from a poor background; we did not have a computer, but we did have furniture.'

His prize money of £22,000 has been used, in accordance with the tradition in Osaka, to purchase his sculpture. which is now in the permanent collection of Osaka's Contemporary Art and Culture Centre.

Richards' other sculptures include the 7ftlong Rocker, in wood and ceramic tiles, resembling an outsize electrical switch, and the 8ft-long Prototype 02, in wood and fibreglass, which could be mistaken for a not very handy Ti remote. Prices fron £2,000.

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Marcus Richards,)171-336 0593; Osaka Trientale Bureau, 0081-6-4477954



'Full Circle'

1999 - THE MAJOR EXHIBITIONS

Monet in the 20th Century Royal Academy, London 23 Jan-18 April Portraits by Ingres National Gallery, London 27 Jan-25 May Patrick Caulfield Hayward Gallery, London

4 Feb-11 May Jackson Poliock Tate Gallery, London 1 1 March-6 June Rembrandt by Himself National Gallery 9 June-5 Sept Gary Hume: New Paintings Scottish National Gallery

of Modern Art 11 Aug-17 Oct Van Dyck Royal Academy 11 Sept-3 Dec Trace: The 1999 Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art Tate Gallery, Liverpool 25 Sept-7 Nov

Michelangelo Pistoletto Museum of Modern Art, Oxford 17 Oct-2 Jan 2000 Bloomsbury: Roger Fry, Vanessa Bell & Duncan Grant Tate, London 4 Nov-30 Jan 2000

Beware flying willow

A PUZZLE: the musicians playing Prokofiev's Cinderella for the Royal Ballet at the Festival Hall are billed as "the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House". But so are those busy on the same evenings performing operas by Smetana or Rimsky-Korsakov at Sadler's Wells. Has somebody in the Covent Garden organisation solved the problem of being in two places at once? Or are some audiences being fobbed off with

substitutes? Whatever the answer (and we can all make a wicked guess), the Royal Ballet's music director Andrea Quinn conducts Prokofiev's score with every appearance of loving it: we get beautiful tempi, even if the tone of the orchestra is not always ideal. At the performance I saw, she stayed at the end to applaud the dancers, including Sara Wildor's debut in the title part.

This suits Wildor a lot better than her other recent new roles, largely because one of her best gifts is bringing out the meaning and emotion of what

DANCE

Too many bad fairies

ROYAL BALLET: CINDERELLA ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL LONDON

she is playing, and Frederick Ashton's choreography is rich in those qualities (something not all Wildor's colleagues seem to notice). It would help if she could find a more defining make-up for the middle act, where the lighting and her blue costume, together with her own pale colouring, hold back her expressions from carrying. With her lovely big eyes and even lovelier, bigger smile, this

She headed a cast in which some of the other soloists also were an improvement on their recent predecessors. Peter Abegglen and Alastair Marriott kept their humour lively as the step-sisters without going over the top (which is more than could be said of their reluctant suitors at the ball).

Jonathan Rowells, a sur-

prisingly tall choice for the jester, danced his many solos with plenty of vim, bounce and brilliance, and made a welcome attempt to restore some of the characterisation too often missing from that role.

This being a reason of goodwill, let me pass silently over those cast members who fall into the trap of playing this ballet as if it were a Christmas panto, and let me hope quietly that one day we shall again see the long sequence of solos and ensembles for the fairies of the seasons danced with the clarity, warmth and style we used to take for granted.

Meanwhile, rejoice that the corps de ballet of evening stars who accompany them show attractive cohesion and zest, and obviously relish those moments when they explode into centre stage and hold it for their own moments of swift, dipping, stretching, circling glory. Now that's what the whole of this potentially beautiful and much loved ballet ought to look like.

JOHN PERCIVAL Alastair Marriott as a lively ugly sister Laurie Lewis

MISSIONARY ZEAL and secular CLASSICAL

violence may have spread the Christian message throughout the medieval world, yet old pagan habits proved remarkably resistant to change. The Roman feasts of Lupercalia and Saturnalia were transformed into church celebrations of the Nativity and Christmas, while dancing drinking and healthy self-indulgence remained a feature of the new holy days.

Philip Pickett's Nativitas programme offered a rich slice of medieval Christmas life, its ingredients ranging from pious songs to the Virgin to a slapstick mummers' play and wild instrumental numbers. The concert's emotional con-

tent was equally diverse, counterbalancing groups of serious and contemplative pieces with ancient pop tunes and folkdrama to evoke genuine feelings of melancholy and mirth. Christmas inspired a wealth

of popular tunes and performing traditions, from which Pickett extracted around two dozen examples. The QEH's lights were dimmed for a semi-staged

NEW LONDON CONSORT QEH, LONDON

account of the Rouen Officium Pastorum, complete with Virgin and child, a candlelit procession and subtle additions to the plainchant of symphony and organ drones. Simon Grant's delivery of the verses in Pax in terris nunciatur and again in the deeply moving narrative carol Als I lay on Youlis micht might stand as a model for the performance of medieval song, his unforced yet powerful projection conditioned by the mood of the text and responsive to the sense of individual words. The various permutations of ensemble voices managed skilfully to balance the demands of choral blend against the need to inflect and project the text, a trick that overcame the potential blandness of the first-half group of

polyphonic conductus. Since early music became a serious business in the 1980s.

much of the fun oce associated with its revivalas been replaced by the o faces of performers despertely seeking inclusion in the minstream. The New London onsort now

a fixture of te musical establishment, ha never lost touch with the piotering spirit of characters suc as David Munrow, nor wit the folk bands who dippe into the

medieval past for spiration. The second bif of the Notivitos programie ran from Walter Frye's subne threepart Ave regina seing to the shenanigans of a SNicholas' Day mummers' plt enacted with vigour by Albh Morris. The loudest laughfrom the stalls presumably one from insurance brokers gl-ful at the prospect of seeing recious replica instruments amaged by willow-branch trapnel. although the stick-wirling anlike (decked out as Steorge)

tics of a Marty Feldmi lookawere sufficiently burre to amuse even the most liestive among the capacity attence. ANDREW STWART

MEDIA

AFTER THE CULL: WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE 26 EDITORS WHO LEFT THEIR JOBS IN THE LAST 5 YEARS

independe (1994-96)

Professor of Journalism at Cardiff University, and





The Daily

(1992-94)

About to start



(1988-94)

Studying for a history degree



Editor of The



The People (1996-97)

Moved to create

'new' Sporting Life, resigned in



The Sun (1994-98)

Forced out to



(1994-96)

Seen off by

her managing director Bridget











Conservative Party's political operations con-sultant

Kicked upstairs

after precipitous



on Sunday (1992-95)

Resigned to become editor become ed of Granta

Editor of Granta and columnist on



Forced out to make way for Rosie Boycott



Sacked for

Resigned when proprietor in discussions with on LBC radio in London and Seduced by job at BSkyB that lasted less than

refusing to implement job Columnist on Express and Observer, consultant to

The Sunday

Went on

in charge of

Resigned to become editor-in-chief of Resigned amid rumours of failing out with proprietor

Lost power struggle with Kelvin

Bridget Rowe

MacKenzle

way for Max Hastings

Stewart 5

Evening

Columnist on

Andreas Whittam Smith Independer (1986-94)

Became director of company after change in

British Board of Film Classifica-tion, director of

Independent on Sunday (1995-96) **Quit rather than** Forced out to



NAME PAPER

WHY THEY
LEFT

NOW?

NAME

PAPER

LEFT

ARE THEY NOW?

to be launched Scottish Sunday

Sir Nick

TalkCo, the consortium that bought Talk Radio for £15m

Andrew Marr Sacked for

Forced out

Seduced by non-existent US relevision Editor in Chief The Scotsman and Sunday Business

TV personality.

Director of Corporate Communicati at National

make way for Rosie Boycott

Editor of The New Statesman.

Who would be an editor?

tious young journalists have a simple aim – to edit a national newspaper. But the events of this year may make many pause for thought. For 1998 has seen eight editors day and Stuart Higgins at The u.e. heir offices even before the triumphant headlines appear in

rival papers the next day. It is always a shock. One day they are omnipotent, courted by politicians and feared by their staff. The next they are bidding screwell to six-figure salaries and chauffeur-driven cars. Increasingly, the job is reminiscent of being a football manager - well-paid, high-proand increasingly shortnational newspaper editors departing this year was the same es the number of Premier League managers. In both cases, resignation is usually a

euphemism for being sacked. Only in football is the pressure to get results so great and the loading of responsibility on one person similar," says Len Gould, the editor of the Sunday Mirror from 1996 to 1997. "Like me football manager, you get about six months before the hairman starts issuing state-

men of confidence." newspapers this year are an is equally as insecure on broadclude people such as Jonathan Holborow at the Mail on Sun-

on seemingly healthy sales. Walker at the Daily Star, Andrew Mart at The Independent, Will Hutton at The Observer, Richard Addis at The Express, Bridget Rowe at the Sunday Mirror and Brendan

Parsons at the Sunday People. While their redundancy terms mean they are unlikely to end up on the dole, most find it difficult to settle into new jobs quickly. Consultancy seems to be the catch-all phrase that protects ex-editors from the more humbling experience of working for another editor who was once their equal.

What the events of recent years demonstrate is how the nature of newspaper editing has changed. In the past five years there have been 26 editors who have left their jobs without a better one to go to: most sat in the editor's chair for about two years. Only two of them - Peter Preston of The eight to depart their Guardian and Kelvin Mackenzie of The Sun - had been edi-

times who could count his tenure in decades.

This marks a significant in the paper as a whole. leave their posts, usually clear- Sun, both of whom were edit- change from the generationing market leaders and sitting before, when Hugh Cudlipp ran Observer from 1948 to 1975.

Analysts believe the rapid turnover of editors is down to a structural change at the heart of the newspaper business. The industry is in decline, with circulations falling for 15 years. This means a company cannot grow by increasing the size of the overall market - the new customers are not there. Instead, a newspaper can only grow by taking readers from other titles. This means newspapers are just too competitive to allow for long-term security for their editors - unless they

are beating the competition. As a result, proprietors see their struggling titles failing to produce a decent return on inestment and keep changing the man (or, occasionally, the woman) at the top in the hope of finding the one who can turn things around and lure readers from rivals.

Newspapers are, of course, unusual in that the product

eclectic lot, proving that the job tors before 1980. Sir David Eng- bears such a strong imprint of contract, which means a six-fig- know, there is always someone for the Mail on Sunday. "By lish, who died this year, was the the person at the top. But the ure pay-off, should clear all sheets and tabloids. They in- only other editor of recent changed finances of newspa- but the most Mandelsonian of to change the editor than invest

gled to hold readers, they have But they are unlikely to be capital arm and will be pre-The Mirror from 1952 to 1973 doubled in size over the past 10 driven by money. Star colum- senting a television series next fidentiality agreement. Those has that most British of careers The others to go were Phil and David Astor edited The years but without a similar in- nists, such as Richard Littlecrease in cover price. Even with new technology and the derecognition of trade unions,

profits have been squeezed. This has led, particularly at the Express and Mirror titles, to editors being replaced by people claiming they can do things more cheaply. Conversely, some editors have resigned rather than implement more job cuts.

For the editor who can supply the holy grail of increasing sales, or even just halt decline the rewards can be considerable. This is even more true when the competition tries to poach the miracle worker. Paul Dacre is believed to be earning more than £650,000 a year. Other editors can expect anything from £200,000 upwards, with substantial share, options, pensions and other perks. Given their shortness of tenure, the key to an editor's wealth might well be his or her

exit arrangements. A one-year

pers also means it is cheaper mortgages, especially when two newspapers, but he has combined with cashing in the share options and possibly

As newspapers have strug-holding on to the company Jag. john and Lynda Lee-Potter, can earn similar sums without anything like the workload or fear of redundancy. And if they do get sacked, they just move papers. Additionally, columnists get to live and die by their own pen, but many editors will have died because of factors like budgets, which are out of their

control But then, as proprietors

who wants to step up to bat. Andrew Marr has columns in

also turned himself into a company and is on the board of Lord Hollick's new media venture I find of working for myself is that it is good psychologically," says Marr. "As an editor you do things at second-hand - you hire the right person to do the right job. Now I do everything for myself."

Richard Addis, too, has become a company. His plan is to come up with marketable ideas and he is working on a project

creating a company, you can at last build up something that is of value to yourself," he says.

For many of the editors leaving their posts, the other main task is securing a pay-off. This usually requires signing a conyear. "The greatest advantage who stay really friendly are - he is a member of the great those who manage to get and the good. As well as prokicked upstairs. In this year's crop, Will Hutton became editor-in-chief of The Observer and remains a columnist in spite of the plunge in circulation under his editorship.

The one thing this year's crop of ex-editors has in common is their relative youthfulness. "The days of becoming

They may wield power and earn huge salaries, but their jobs are no longer secure. By Paul McCann editor in your fifties have gone." Then when you stepped down after years at the top, it was to a wellearned retirement. Now the rapid turnover means the trick is to get right what you do with your life afterwards. Simon Jenkins is probably the best model of how you manage it."

Jenkins, the editor of The Times from 1990 to 1992, now ducing various weekly columns, Jenkins sits on an array of committees covering railways, the environment, historic buildings, world monuments and the Old Vic.

So there is one difference with football managers. Ex-editors rarely end up running

'I grin like a maniac but it feels like death'

SAUCKED, CANNED. Kicked up- time at the top and, in the We both know that Fleet Street tomatic "Access All Areas" pass stain Moved sideways. Given

Call it what you like, I've lost the editorship and it feels like death. I am grinning like a maniac and trying to swallow a ump the size of a cannonball. can't hear the silence because somewhere in my head Concorde is taking off. A hundred or more unblinking faces are taking the news of my replacement as editor of The Mirror with stoicism bordering

on cruelty. But all I can see is Thatcher's face, as familiar as my own mother's, hunched in her limousine behind rain-spattered windows leaving Number Ten. Her right eye, the one nearest the feasting Press, molten with tears.

That was the moment when she knew what it was to lose the best job on earth, the role she

Now it is my turn. speaking my name, praising my same breath, introducing my successor. How hard are the mighty fallen! I feel nauseous as I scan the

faces of staff and colleagues for signs of pleasure or triumph or revenge. I see only outrageous sympathy. And I hate it. A jumble of crazy, angry thoughts spin in my head as I

mealy-mouth familiar words:

served... thanks for your work and loyalty... please support him as you did me...' How long have they gossiped behind my back? Was I the last to know? What will I tell

my children? I inform executives that their new editor will meet with them in an hour's time. They nod. More sympathy. And then they are gone, shuffling back to their desks. The newsroom is ablaze with scarcely suppressed excitement.

Inside my room my secre-The managing director is tary hugs and consoles. What will become of her, I wonder?

editors' secretaries are at least as vulnerable as their bosses.

usual riot, either: my driver, Keith, has become a family friend since the first day he called to collect me. He has become indispensable. Errand boy, courier, stand-in father, go to the theatre. minder, collector-from-pubs. restaurant guide, driver (in emergencies - she disapproves "Congratulations... richly deof such luxuries) of my wife... all for nought. The new editor, we both know, will have his own

man in mind. As it happens, the company is compassionate. Generous redundancy for my secretary, a director for Keith to drive. Indeed, I keep a chauffeur-driven car for three months while I make "other arrangements". Three months in which the

mières, fancy parties, political soirees dry to a trickle. Three months in which I go from being a power in the land (hopefully for good) with an au-

invitations to receptions, pre-

to a "Used-To-Be-But-Isn't-Any-More". Three months in which The journey home isn't the I rediscover my family, who my friends are, public transport. that nights at the movies aren't always followed by black-tie parties, washing my own car, dinner at home and paying to

> ever met - and carry on. In the past four years, I'm

nications. You see, there is life after editing a national newspaper.

After which I am ready to shrug philosophically - Piers Morgan recently called me "the least bitter former editor" he'd

proud of what I've achieved: persuading Mirror Group that the Internet is a big part of the future; learning the art of broadcasting and using it to the company's benefit; and establishing a group-wide network of internal and external commi

But not much! DAVID BANKS The author was editor of The Daily Mirror from 1992-94

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NEW FILMS

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG)

Director: Samirah Makhmalbat

Starring: Massoumeh Naderi, Zahra Naderi Seventeen-year-old Makhmalbaf's precocious début re-creates the true-life fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters, raised in seclusion by their parents before being set loose by a social worker. Part docudrama, part rites-of-passage fable, The Apple is a luminous missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene, West End: Metro, Renoir

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15) Director: Tony Scott

Starring: Will Smith, Gene Hackman

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse in a tale of political intrigue. A top-drawer cast weaves in and out of the hi-tech imagery and adrenalised chase scenes. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington. Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

THE MIGHTY (PG) Director: Peter Chelsom

Starring: Sharon Stone, Gillian Anderson Peter Chelsom's The Mighty is a stolid and rather

predictable tale of two outcast kids in Cincinnati. Sharon Stone and Gillian Anderson cope well in what basically amount to supporting roles. West End: Barbican Screen, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Richmond Filmhouse, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)

Director: Vincent Ward

Starring: Robin Williams, Annabella Sciorra Along comes Christmas, and out comes What Dreams May Come; an over-glazed turkey with all the trimmings. Williams simpers as the dead chappie who leaves a cod-Impressionist heaven to rescue his suicide-bride (Sciorra) from a Gothic hell. Metaphysical conceits arrive with a heavy dusting of sugar. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

GENERAL RELEASE

See The Independent Recommends, right, West End: Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (1) In the follow-up to Babe, knockabout comedy is

kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys. Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG) This swashbuckler gallops full-speed through

19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town. Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

MULAN (U)

This has it all: pro-active heroine; strong father/daughter relationship; honour; nobility. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. West End: Odeon Mezzanine. UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Curzon Soho, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15) Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to

head in this thrilling drama. West End: Odeon Morble Arch, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

Disney reheats its 1961 heart-warmer in this story of twin sisters' efforts to reunite their parents. West End: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington. Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End. UCI Whiteleys. Virgin Chelsea

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as The Ten Commandments by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin. Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage. Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Virgin Trocadero

RUSH HOUR (15)

Rush Hour marries Jackie Chan with a LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director and a wisecracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. It's a hit-and-miss affair. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage. Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE THREE BEST FILMS

Out of Sight (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law knocks spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez the swooniest romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

Antz (PG) This computer-animated comedy, voiced by a stellar cast, stars Woody Allen as worker ant "Z", who becomes an unlikely opponent

CINEMA

WEST END

(0870-902 0418) ← Baker Street Babe: Pig in the City 1.20pm. 6.10pm The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm What Dreams May Come 3.40pm, 8.30pm

ABC PANTON STREET
(0870-902 0404) & Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm,
3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Lock, Stock
& Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm,
3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm A Perfect
Murder 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm,
8.30pm

(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) © Piccadilly Circus Hamam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm Slums of Beverly Hills 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm,

6.05pm, 8.30pm The Governess 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

La Vie Revée des Anges 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.15pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870-902 0414) & Tottenham Court Road Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm, 3.40pm Enemy of the State 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm My Name is Joe 6.30pm. 9.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

(0171-351 3742) & Sloane Square On Connaît la Chanson 1pm,

(0171-498 3323) ⊕ Clapham Common Babe: Pig in the City 12.30pm Enemy of the State 6.20pm, 9pm The Mask of Zorro phone for times The Parent Trap

1pm, 3.45pm The Prince of Egypt phone for times What Dreams May

(0171-369 1720) ↔ Green Park

Dancing at Lughnasa 4.30pm, 9pm The Philadelphia Story 2pm, 6.30pm

Road Casablanca 2pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Elizabeth 1.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm The Mighty 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm

My Name is Joe 4.30pm, 9.30pm

(0171-703 4968) De Elephant & Castle The Mask of Zorro phone for times The Prince of Egypt phone for times What Dreams May Come

EMPIRE LEICESTER SOLIARE

(0990-888990) + Leicester Square

(0870-907 0718) Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Babe: Pig In the

City 12.40pm Enemy of the State 3pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm The

Prince of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Rush

Circus/Leicester Square The Apple (Sib) 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Fire 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) & Hyde Park

Comer/Knightsbridge Elizabeth 2.20pm, 6.40pm Fire 4.35pm, 9pm

(0171-727 6705) O Notting Hill Gate Enemy of the State 3pm,

(08705-050007) & Camden Town Babe: Pig in the City 11.45am Enemy of the State 12.15pm. 3pm.

5.50pm. 8.40pm The Mask of

Zorro 11.40am, 2.45pm, 5.40pm.

8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm

2.55pm The Prince of Egypt 11.40am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm,

9pm Rush Hour 2.15pm, 4.30pm,

6.40pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May

(08705-050007) → Piccadilly Circus What Dreams May Come 1.10pm,

(08705-050007) → High Street Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm. 3.55pm Enemy of the

State 12,05pm, 3,10pm, 6,15pm, 9,20pm The Mask of Zorro 2,25pm,

5.40pm. 8.55pm Out of Sight 6.20pm. 9.20pm The Parent Trap

1pm. 4pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.25pm, 4.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 7.05pm, 9.40pm

What Dreams May Come 1.30pm,

NOTTING HILL CORONET

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

ODEON HAYMARKET

3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

4.15pm, 7pm, 9.45pm

5.50pm, 8,30pm

AND CASTLE

ABC PANTON STREET

ABC PICCADILLY

ABC SWISS CENTRE

BARBICAN SCREEN

CHELSEA CINEMA

3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

Соте 4.15рт, 9.30рт

CITETON MAVESIR

CURZON SOHO

ELEPHANT

phone for times

6pm, 8.30pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

of the colony's totalitarian regime when he falls in with Princess Bakla (Sharon Stone).

My Name is Joe (15) This solid social-realist drama (right) contains all that one would expect from a Ken Loach film humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

ANTHONY QUINN



NARNER VILLAGE WEST END

ODFON MARRIE ARCH (08705-050007) & Marble Arch Babe: Pig in the City 12.05pm Enemy of the State 12noon, 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm The Mask 3.05pm, 9.05pm, 9.05pm The Mask of Zorro 11.45am, 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 9pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.15pm The Prince of Egypt 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm Rush Hour 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 5.55pm, 9pm

ODEON MEZZANINE ODEON MEZZAMINE (08705-050007) ← Leicester Square Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock ← Tiwo Smoking Barrets 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Les Miserables 3.30pm, 8.30pm Mulan 1.40pm, 3.50pm Ronin 5.55pm, 8.25pm

Snake Eyes 1.05pm, 6pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm DEON SWISS COTTAGE

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) & Leicester Square Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May Come 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(08705-050007) ◆ Swiss Cottage
Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm
Enemy of the State 12.10pm,
2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm The Mask
of Zorro 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm
Out of Sight 5.45pm, 8.25pm The
Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.05pm The
Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.25pm,
5.55pm, 8.25pm Rush Hour
1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
What Dreams May Come 12.30pm,
3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm ODEON WEST END

(08705-050007) & Leicester Square Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.05pm, 2.45pm

(0171-494 4153) O Piccadilly Circus Everest 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

PLAZA (0990-888990) Piccadlily Circus Antz 1.15pm, 3.30pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.45pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 7.50pm Truman Show 6pm, 8.30pm

(0171-837 8402) & Russell Square The Apple (Sib) 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.50pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm On Connait la Chanson 3.45pm, 8.35pm The Philadelphia Story 1.25pm, 6.15pm

DITTY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) BR/& Brixton Antz 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.25pm, 2.25pm, 4.25pm Enemy of the State 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm The Mask of Zorro 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Rush Hour 6.50pm, 9.20pm La Vie Revée des Anges 4.25pm, 6.55pm,

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) Baker Street Enemy of the State 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) ◆ Angel/Highbury & Islington Enemy of the State 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) & Belsize Park Left Luggage 4.40pm The Mighty 2.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm, 9pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Prince of Egypt 10.45am, 1pm, 3.30pm. UCI WHITELEYS (0990-888990) & Queensway Antz 11,30am, 2pm, 4pm Babe: Pig in the City 11,10am, 12,10pm, GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) & Notting Hill Gate The Mighty 4.45pm, 6.55pm,

the City 11.10am, 12.10pm, 1.40pm, 2.30pm, 4.20pm Enemy of the State 11.40am, 2.45pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 3.05pm, 6pm, 9pm Mulan 11am Out of Sight phone for times The Parent Trap phone for times The Prince of Egypt times The Prince of Egypt 11.20am. 1.30pm, 5.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Rush Hour 5.05pm. 7.20pm, 9.50pm What Dreams May Come 1,10pm, 4,10pm, 7pm, 9,40pm VIRGIN CHELSEA

(0870-907 0710) ♦ Sloane Square Antz 1.15pm Enemy of the State 2.15pm, 5pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight 8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm 3pm, 5.45pm Rush Hour 3.30pm 6.15pm, 9.30pm What Dreams Max Come 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) South Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 12noon, 2,10pm, 4,15pm Elizabeth 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9.20pm The Mask of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Mighty 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Negotiator 9.10pm

The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm. 2.15pm. 4.25pm. 6.40pm. 8.50pm VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-907 0712) & Piccadilly Circus Fear and Loathing In Las Vegas 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The Mighty 12,30pm, 3,10pm, 5,50pm, 8,25pm My Name is Joe 12,55pm, 3,30pm, 6,10pm, 8,45pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0716) ← Piccadlly Circus Antz 12.20pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm Blade 6.25pm, 9pm The Negotiator 8.30pm Out of Sight 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 12.10pm. 2.25pm. 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm There's Something About Mary 6.20pm. 9pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm. 3.10pm. 6pm,

9.35pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm Lethal Weapon 4 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.50pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Mulan 11.40pm, 3.55pm The Negotiator 11.40am, 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 12.20pm, 1.50pm, 3pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.20pm, 9.20pm.

LONDON LOCALS

6.10pm, 8.45pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Brom-ley North/Bromley South Babe: Pig in the City 12.05pm Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 2.10pm, 5.10pm. 8.15pm The Mask of Zorro 2.15pm.

CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR:

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Antz 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm Babe: Pig in the City 11.20am, 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.25pm Blade 9.50pm Enemy of the State 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9.05pm The Mask of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm Mulan 10.20am The Negotlator 8.40pm The Parent Trap 11.50am, 2.50pm 5.50pm The Prince of Egypt 11.10am, 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Rush Hour 11.40am, 2pm, diers 10.30am What Dreams May Come 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm,

9070719) BR/O Ealing Broadway Babe: Pig in the City 12noon Enemy of Zono 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.05pm

FINCHLEY ROAD ◆ Finchiev Road Antz 12.10pm 10.20am, 2.40pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm Enemy of the State 12.30pm 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm The Ma 9.50pm Out of Sight 10.10pm The Parent Trap 10.25am, 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.40pm The Prince of Egypt 10.30am, 12.45pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 2.50pm, 5.20pm, 7.40pm, 10.05pm Small Soldlers 12.10pm

GOLDERS GREEN ABC (0181-455 1724) & Golders Green The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm.

GREENWICH CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich Enemy of the State phone for details The Mask of Zorro phone for details The Prince of Egypt phone for

ABC (0870 9020401) BR: Putney/& Putney Bridge Antz 1.15pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.45pm Enemy of the State 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Par-ent Tray 2.15pm The Prince of Egypt 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm What Dreams May Come 6pm, 8.30pm

SURREY QUAYS UCI (0990 888990) ⊕ Surrey Cuays Antz 11.45am, 2.35pm Babe: Pig in the City 11.35am, 12.20pm, 1.45pm,

2.50pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm En-emy of the State 12noon, 12.40pm, The Mask of Zorro 12,30pm, 3,30pm 8.35pm Rush Hour 5pm, 7.30pm, 9pm, 9,50pm What Dreams May Come 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streathar fill Antz 8.35pm Babe: Pig in the City 2.10pm, 6.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Soldiers 2.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.25pm, 8.45pm What Dreams May Come 5.45pm, 8.25pm

ODEON (08705 BR: Streatham Hill/O Brixton/Clapham Common Blade 8.20pm Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm The Mask of Zorro 1.40pm, 4.35pm, 8pm The Parent Trap 12.20pm, 5.10pm The Prince of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm Rush Hour 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5,50pm, 8.30pm

MOOLWICH (0181-854 5043) CORONET BR: Woolwich Arsenal Enemy of the State phone for details The Parent Trap phone for details The Prince of Egypt

CINEMA

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232)
Sing Blade (15) 2.30pm, 6.10pm Madred Pierce (PG) 6.15pm Ghost Stories by MR James 2: Television (NC) 7.30pm Forbidden Cuest: The White

RIO CINEMA Kingsland High Street E8 (0171-254 6677) Dancing at Luginasa (PG) 8.45pm Babe: Pig in the City (U) 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA Crisp

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-568 1176) Mulan (U) 1.30pm Fire (15)

602503) Mulan (U) 2pm Fire (15) 4pm, 9pm Elizabeth (15) 6.30pm

CUBE (0114-907 4191) Antz (PG) 4pm it's A Wonderful Life (U) 7pm WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) If Only (15) 3pm, 6.05pm MouseHunt (PG) 3.05pm Elizabeth (15) 6pm, 8.20pm Dancing at Lughnasa (PG)

Elizabeth (15) 2pm, 6.45pm My Name is Joe (15) 4.30pm, 9.10pm

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) The Governess (15) 7.30pm

FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Mulan (U)2.30pm Cube (15) 6pm. 8.15pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) (18) 6pm, 8.30pm

THEATRE

Ticket availability details are for today: times and prices for the week; running times include intervals.

— Seats a all prices P — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matinees — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri.

ALARMS & EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner par-ty which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Glelgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) ⊕ Picc Circ. Mor-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm. £19.50-£27.50, 130 mins.

928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/O Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm. from £7.50-£30. 180 mlns. ANNIE Story of the optimistic grahan.

Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, [1] 4pm, £7.50-£32.50. 165 mins. ART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim

Healy in Yasmina Reza's cornedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Char-ing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 ing Cross Road, w.∠ 1011. 1736/cc 0171-867 1111) ⊕ Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8.00pm, [4] 3.00pm, [7][1] 5.00pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

ish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) + Tott Ct Rd. To: 2.30pm & 7.30pm, £18.50-£35. 150

WC2 (0171-369 1733) & Leic Sq. Mor Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3.00pm, [7] 4.00pm, £11.50-£32,50, 165 mins. ● BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Richie

stars in a brand new 1970s musical Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888) Charing X. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 8.30pm, [6] 5.30pm, [7] 5pm, ends 9 Jan. £11-£28.50. 150 mins.

wych. WC2 (0171-930 8800) ← Charing X. Tue-Thu 8.00pm, Fri 5.30pm & 30pm. Sat 5.00pm & 8.30pm. mats [1] 4pm, £10-£27, half price Friday DCATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London

Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079) ⊕ Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3.00pm, booking to June 26. £12.50-

Peter Davison star in this hit broadway musical, Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) & Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, booking to 25 Sep. £16-£36 (Inc booking fee). D CINDERELLA Angela Carter's

THE THREE BEST PLAYS

Mr Puntila and His Man Matti (Albery Theatre)

A well-deserved transfer this Almeida hit. Comedy duo The Right Size are inspired casting for Brecht's witty fable about a split-personality landowner. To 9 Jan

Love Upon the Throne (Comedy Theatre) The Charles and Diana story (up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent (all

two of them). Very funny and oddly touching. To 31 Jan

Yorkshire Playhouse) It looks like being third time lucky for this much-rewritten Boublil/Schönberg musical. In Conall Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter, magnificent show. To 13 Feb

O THE SNOWMAN Award-winning THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company's keenly-paced theatrical history lesson. Criterion Picproduction of Raymond Briggs's contemporary classic. Sadler's Wells At The Peacock Portugal Street. WC2 (0171-863 8222) & Holborn/Temple. cadilly Grous, W1 (0171-369 1747) & Picc Circ, Tue 8.00pm, booking to Apr 11, £6-£25. 120 mins.

• DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Hammersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) • Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 150 mlns. • FAME THE MUSICAL High-octane

O FILLWIENA Judi Dench and Michael Pennington star in Timberlake Werten-baker's new translation of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Piccadilly Derman Street, W 1 (0171-369 1734)

) GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) ◆ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, £10-£30. 150 mins.

) AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy, Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm. [7] 4pm, £8.50-£29.50. 165 mins.

P AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Char-ing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) & Lelc Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5.00pm, £10.50-£25. 110 mlns. O INTO THE WOODS Sondheim and

Lapine's acclaimed musical based on fairytales. Donmar Warehouse Eartham Street. WC2 (0171-369 1732) ⊕ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm [4][7] 2.30pm, £15-£27.50.) THE INVENTION OF LOVE Tom

Stoppard's play about the life of poet A E Houseman, author of *The Shropehire Lod.* Theatre Royal, Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Pricc Girc. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. ● JESUS, MY BOY Tom Conti stars

in John Dowie's alternative Christmas show. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) ↔ Picc Circ. Today 5pm & 8pm, £5.50-£18.50. ■ LOVE UPON THE THRONE

) MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Viet-nam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) O Covent Garden, Mon-Sa

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's Wes Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) ← Le-ic Sq. Mon-Sat 8.00pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5.00pm, £10-£24.50. 135 mins.

MR PUNTILA AND HIS MAN MATTI Sean Foley and Hamish McColl star in a new version of Brecht's com-edy satire. Albery St Martin's Lane. WC2 (0171-369 1730) ← Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 30pm. [5]|7] 3pm. ends 9 Jan. E5-

OTHE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [4][7] 3.00pm. £10-£35. 150 mins.

Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE OLIVIER: Peter Pan Stephen Oliv-er's music accompanies the tale of the er's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up, with el Bryant as the Storyteller in rep today 2pm & 7.15pm.

Williams and Babs Windsor on stage. in rep today 2.15pm & 7.30pm. 120 mins. O COTTESLOE: Haroun and the Sea of Stories Tim Supple's stage adapta-tion of Salman Rushdie's acclaimed nov-

el. In rep tonight 7.30pm. Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-£27. Cottesloe: £12-£18. Dat seats from 10am, South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). BR/

in rep tonight 7.15pm. 180 mins.) THE PIT: Shadows: Riders to the

Sea & The Shadow of The Glen & Purgatory Triple-bill of drama by WB Yeats and JM Synge. In rep tonight 7.15pm. Barbican Theatre: E5-E26. The Pit: £17-£18.50. Barbican Centre. EC2 (0171-638 8891). BR/O Barbican/Moorgate,

Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 30 Jan, £7.50-£32.50. STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical, Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/4 Victoria, Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [3][7] 3.00pm, £12.50-£30. 150 mins.

THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Be-D THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Be-inda Lang stars in Alan Ayekbourn's comedy. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 0171-344 4444) ◆ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 23 Jan, £15-£27.50. 140 mins.

D THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ⊕ Leic Sq/Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £5-£25. 90

WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) & Leic Sq/Tott Cr Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £15-£35, 160

OWNESTLE DOWN THE WIND Licyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WCZ (0171-416 6000/cc 0171-836

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Rus-Kiell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc=0171-344 4444) & Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, Sat 4pm, £8.50-£23.50. 110 mlns.

THEATRE **BEYOND THE WEST END**

HACKNEY EMPIRE Dick Whittington and His Cat Anita Dobson and Paul Moriarty star: Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 10 Jan. £5.50-£15.50. Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424) BR: Hack-

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE Little Ma colm and His Struggle Against the Eunuchs Ewan McGregor stars as the revolutionary activist in David Halliwell's drama. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats 5at 3.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £9-£16, concs £6. Avenue Road, NW3 (0171-722 9301)

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

THEATRE ROYAL Mother Goe Christopher Biggins is Mother Grase. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 9 Jan. E7.50-£12.50, concs available, Bond Street (01273-328488)

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10.00 ac viii ac viii ac viii ac viii

GARDNER ARTS CENTRE The Wind in the Willows Kenneth Grahame's en-chanting tale of river life is adapted for the stage. Today 2.30pm & 6.30pm. £6.95-£8.95. concs available. University of Sussex. Lewes Road (01273-685861)

NEW THEATRE The Adventures of New IMEAIRE THE Adventures or Robinson Crusoe David Essex stars in this swashbuckling adventure. Today 1.30pm. 2.30pm. 7pm. ends 30 Jan. £7-£13.50. concs available. Park Place (01222-878889)

SHERMAN THEATRE The Secret S en Save the World New adventure, courtesy of Enid Blyton, and set in 1999. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends Jan 9. £6-£10, concs available. Senghenydd Road (01272-230451) (01222-230451)

NORTHCOTT THEATRE Dick Whit-tington Follow the penniless hero as he searches for the streets paved with gold. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. E7-E15. Stocker Road (01392-493493) THE COURTYARD Cinderella A time

less tale of love, happiness and dreams, set in a breathtaking winter wonderland.

Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 9 Jan. £8, concs £5.50, family £22. Edgar Street (01432-359252) POOLE ARTS CENTRE Aladdin Do Bryan stars as the Slave Of the Ring alongside Tracey Childs and David McAlister of Hollyouks. Today 2.30pm

& 7pm, ends 16 Jan. £5.90-£11.90,

concs available. Kingland Road (01202-6852221 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Adrian Noble directs Adrian Mitchell's adaptation of the CS Lewis Namia classic Today 2.30pm & 7.15pm. ends 27 Feb. £5-£30.

SWAN THEATRE A Month in the Country Brian Friel's adaptation of Tur-'s portrait of all-consuming sexual desire. Michael Attenborough directs. Today 7.30pm, ends Feb 20. E5-E30. Waterside (01789-295623)

GRAND THEATRE Cinderella Melinda Messenger and Steven Houghton star as Cinderella and Prince Charming. Today 2.15pm & 7.15pm, ends 31 Jan. £6.50-£12.75, concs available. Singleton Street (01792-475715)

WORCESTER SWAN THEATRE A Christmas Tr sure Island A colourful adventure with sure island A colournal adventure with Jim Hawkins, Long John Silver and Friends. Today 2,30pm & 7pm. ends 2 Jan. £10-£11.50, concs £7-£8.50. The Moors (01905-27322)

Martin Guerre (West

CINEMA

ODEON (08705 050007) + High Bar-ODEON (08705 050007) & High Bar-net Babe: Pig in the City 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm Enemy of the State 1.10pm, 3.55pm, 8.10pm The Mask of Zorro 12.45pm, 3.45pm, 8pm The Parent Trap 12.40pm, 3.20pm The Prince of Egypt 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm Rush Hour 6.30pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May Come

BROMLEY 5.15pm, 8.20pm The Parent Trap 1pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Rush Hour 3.45pm

Croydon West/East The Mighty 4pm. 6.15pm, 8.30pm SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West Croydon, Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm, 2.15pm Enemy of the State 5.20pm, 8.20pm The Mask of Zorro 12.05pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap 12.05pm, 2.40pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.10pm

VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870of the State 6pm, 8,40pm The Mas

WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110) 30pm, 4.40pm Babe: Pig in the City of Zorro 11.20am, 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.45pm The Negotiator 6.50pm, What Dreams May Come 12.50pm,

3.20pm, 6pm, 9pm

4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm

m, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.50pm, 9.40pm 6.30pm, 9.30pm Mulan 11.15am The Negotiator 8.45pm Out of Sight 10pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3.05pm. 5.50pm The Prince of Egypt 10.45am, 1.15pm. 3.45pm. 6.15pm,

STREATHAM

rness (NC) 8.45pm Fargo (18)

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) The Spanish Prisoner (PG) 1pm Fire (15) 3.30pm SBding Doors (15) 6.15pm The Horse Whisperer (PG) 8.45pm

Road W6 (0171-420 0100) Bandit Queen (18) 6pm + Elizabeth 8.30pm

DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA (01273-

ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) It's a Wonderful Life (U) 2.30pm, 8.15pm There's Something About Mary (15)

 AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed

Victoria Palace Victoria Street. SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/O Victoria. Tue-

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lav-

● BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melo-drama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road.

● BUDDY Musical blog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Ald-

O CHICAGO Maria Friedman and

version of this fairytale is staged by the acclaimed Improbable Theatre. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) → Hammersmith, Today 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 9 Jan, £5-£18.

marriage. Comedy Panton Street, 5W1 (0171-369 1731) + Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, ends Jan 9,) LES MISERABLES Musical drama isation of Victor Hugo's master Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35. 195

7.45pm. [4][7] 3.00pm, £5.75-£35.

> RENT Musical inspired by La Boheme and set in modern day New York Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) & Holborn/Tott Cr Rd.

● LYTTELTON: Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle and Dick Terry Johnson's new play looks at the Carry On actors and recreates Sid James, Kenneth

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY THE BARBICAN: The Merchant of Venice RSC production of Shake-speare's drama about love and money

O SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Hit 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bec Gees and starring Adam Carcia. London Palladium Argyll Street. W1 (0171-494 5020) & Oxford Circ.

Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm. £10. £32.50. 135 mins.

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Pace 12-20 1.00

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TUESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM) , 700 Chris Moyles. 10.00 Scott 1. S. 1.00 Kevin Greening. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Larnacq the Evening Session. 10.00 John Peel, 12.00 The Breezeblock. 2.00 Emma B. 4.00 Clive Warren.

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Mo Dutta. 8.05 Sarah Kennedy. 10,00 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Alex Lester. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Evelyn Glennie's Classics. 8.00 Nigel Ogden. 9.00 The White Christmas Man. 10-00 Kennedy at Christmas. 10.30 Bob Harris. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 -4.00 Nicky Home.

RADIO 3 (90.2-924MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks 10.30 Artist of the Week 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: 1-00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-

2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 3.50 The Harmonic Series. 4.00 Mozart Voices. 4.45 Music to Die For. 5.00 A Medieval Christmas. 5.30 Music Rooms. 6.00 Discovering Music with Leonard Slatkin. 7.00 Cabaret Cocktails

30 Performance on 3. Another chance to hear nine of the most memorable concerts of the 1998 BBC Proms season at the Royal Albert Hall, London. 7: In Prom 71, given on 10 September, west met east with magic and mystery. Valdine Anderson (soprano), BBC National Chorus and Orchestra of Wales/Mark Elder. Stravinsky: Scherzo fantastique. Szymanowski: Songs of a Fairy Tale Princess. Debussy: Jeux. Holst: Suite 'The Planets'. (R)

1.11.11.11

9-20 Postscript. Peter Holland talks to ten Shakespeare experts about the Bard today. 2: 'Shakespeare on Stage'. Michael Bogdanov from the English Shakespeare Company and Mark Rylance of the Globe eatre discuss 'Henry V'. 40 Marjana Lipovsek in Concert.

The distinguished mezzo in a

6.00 Tom and Huck (1995) (58455). 8.00

¹Il Be Home for Christmas (1996) (64233). **10.00** That Thing You Dol (1996) (57368).

12.00 The Angel of Pennsylvania Avenue (1996) (87184). **2.00** ft Be Home for Christ-mes (1998) (89981). **4.00** Tom and Huck

(9523). 6.00 That Thing You Dol

(1996) (318962). **11.55** Marvin's Room

6.00 Tom Retween Two Lovers (1979)

19829), 7.30 All the Winters That Have

Seen (1997) (76704894), 9.15 Vegas Vaca-

tion (1997) (44455271), tLOO The Judge

Steps Out (1949) (97707). 1.00 No More

Baths! (1997) (80271). 3.00 Torn Between

Two Lavers (1979) (97368), 5.00 All the Win. Have Been (1997) (6048), 7.00

Dracula: Dead and Loving It (1995) (95691).

Bordello of Blood (1996) (78959). 12.30 Her

(57894), 10.30 Movietalk (24542), 11.00

Deadly Rival (1995) (251740), 2.05 Flash-

4.00 About Mrs Leslie (1954) (7101455).

6.00 The Big Sky (1952) (9517417). **8.00**

The Sniper (1952) (2922788), 9.30 Holly-

Greenwich Village (1976) (9923691). 1.50

3.20irectors (3529498). 4.20 Sorrowful

(774C - 10), 8.05 Fried Green Tomatoes at

the V h tie Stop Cale (1991) (50940504).

10.15: Carcle of Friends (1995) (4198504).

12.00 Party Girl (1995) (1003276). 1.40 The Last Seduction (1994) (9849635), 3.30

6.00 Joy Luck Club (1993) (4815721).

(8542962). 4.30 Walker's World (8542962).

Hammerheads (2023368), **7.30** Beyond 2000 (8543691), **8.00** Titanic (800pm-1200): Titanic Discovered (5253146), **9.00**

Anatomy of a Disaster (5256233). 11.00

The Titanic (1559953). 12.00 The Easy

4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures

5.00 Connections 2 by James Burke

(29()2271). **5.30** Jurassica (8566542).

6.00 Animal Doctor (8563455). 6.30

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

zy (1972) (4452875). **11.55** Next Stop,

None Shall Escape (1944) (83550479).

Jones (1949) (53103837). **5.45** Close.

6.L. Taise the Red Lantern (1991)

wood Hall of Fame (1533558). 10.00 Fren-

Nine Seconds (1997) (48240905).

point (1997) (320996). 3.40 - 6.00 Every

9.00 Love and Other Cats

SKY CINEMA

FIL XTOUR

(15:56) (76417). 8.00 Dantels Peak (1997) (71962). See Pick of the Day. 10.00 Eraser

Elame (1996) (9097924). 3.05 - 6.00 Glory

SKY PREMIER

(1989) (78900108).

SKY MOVEMAX

PICK OF THE DAY

Whittam Smith, and director settle any arguments about James Ferman retiring, change censorship, but it does take the British Board of Film them a human, practical face. Classification, In Censored film quickly becomes a mechan-result is distinctly mild. ical matter, but violence is

Schumann: Three Songs from Op 12. Robert Schumann: Frauenliebe

und -Leben. Musorgsky: The

Nursery. 10.35 The Harmonic Series. 5:

Adrian Jack looks at suspensions.

10.45 Book, Music and Lyrics. Six

programmes in which Robert Cush-

man presents a personal view of

musicals, with songs from original

cast recordings - some familiar,

Show is On'. A look at one of the

most intriguing Broadway revues: a

show that drew on the services of

nearly every notable composer in

the golden age of American song-

Bert Lahr and Beatrice Lillie as well

writing, and the comic talents of

12.00 Composer of the Week:

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

9.45 Serial: Peter Pan and Wendy.

11.00 NEWS; Nature: A Wolf to the

10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.

11.30 The Galton and Simpson

Radio Playhouse. See Pick of

the Day. 12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Full Orchestra.

11.30 Jazz Notes,

(924-946MHz FM)

9.00 NEWS; The Choice.

9.30 Hancock and Son.

RADIO 4

North.

6.00 Today.

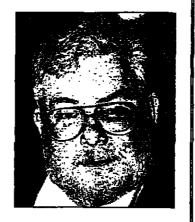
12.57 Weather.

some less well known, 4: 'The

WITH A new president, Andreas another. The programme doesn't under way at them out of the abstract, giving

The Galton and Simpson (8pm R4) Nick Higham finds Radio Playhouse (11.30am R4) out who the censors are and has Richard Griffiths (right) how they feel about their work: playing a French undertaker in for most of them, sex on an exhumed G&S TV script. The

ROBERT HANKS



recital recorded at the 1998 Vienna 2.00 NEWS; The Archers. Festival Marjana Lipovsek (mezzo), Oleg Maisenberg (plano). Clara 2.15 Afternoon Play: Open Secrets. 3.00 NEWS; The Exchange: 0171-580 4444 3.30 The Small Ad. (R)

3.45 Angels Bending near the Earth. 4.00 NEWS; A Good Read. 4.30 Shop Talk. 5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 4 at the Store. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. 'Fact v Fiction'.

Mark Lawson looks back at a year in which the boundaries between fact and fiction have been questioned and blurred, in everything from films like 'The Truman Show to the novels of Tom Wolfe and Don DeLillo and the glut of TV docusoaps. Is the old-fashioned idea of factual authority now collapsing? 7.45 Under One Root. The second of three five-part dramatisations from the Michele Hanson stories, with Janet Maw, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White (2/5). 8.00 NEWS; Censored. Nick High-

Britain's most secretive organisa-tions - the British Board of Film Classification, the country's film and video watchdog. See Pick of the Day. 8.40 In Touch. Peter White with news for visually impaired people. 9.00 NEWS; Case Notes. 'Obesity'. Almost everyone puts on a bit of weight over the holiday. Graham Easton looks at how much fat is too much. 9.30 The Choice, Michael Buerk

am examines the work of one

talks to individuals who have made life-changing choices, taking them through the whole process, from the initial dilemma to living with the consequences 10.00 The World Tonight. With Sue

Cameron. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Five Dahls. 2: 'The Hitchhiker' by Roald Dahl, read by Tom Hollander. On a journey to London, a writer and his hitchhiking passenger get stopped for speeding. Why is the hitchhiker so sure that the writer will not be

prosecuted? 11.00 The Now Show. Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis present a caval-cade of cutting-edge comedy with the regular team of Simon Munnery, Jane Bussmann, David Quantick, Nick Romero and Dan Freedman. 11.30 Talking Pictures.

12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: The Restraint of Beasts. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 12.00 - 9.45 Test Match Special RADIO 5 LIVE

(693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Proops's Hoops. (R) 6.30 Breakfast.

9.00 Brian Hayes. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Muscular Prose, Nick Coleman returns to celebrate the best of sports writing, beginning with racing in all its forms. (R) 8.00 The Tuesday Match. Russell Fuller presents coverage of the night's football action, including Chelsea v Manchester United and Leeds v Wimbledon in the FA Carlina Premiership.

10.00 20th-Century Vox - Money and Wealth. Sybil Ruscoe explores how changes in money and wealth over the century have affected peoples lives, attitudes and expec-

11.00 Late Night Live. The day's big stories with Nick Robinson. Including 1100 News and finance. And between 11.30 and 1.00 a sharp and spirited late-night topical

1.00 Up All Night. 4.00 Extra Time. (R) 5.00 - 6.00 A-Z of Entertainment. CLASSIC FM

(1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Classic Celebrity Recitals. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann 2.00 Classic Celebrity Recitals. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VERGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM 6.00 Jeremy Clark. 10.00 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Mark Forrest. 10.00 Richard Allen. 1.00 - 6.00 James Merritt.

World Service Radio (198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Discovery. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Meridian (Live). 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 One Planet. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO 6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Meen. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Nancy Roberts. 4.00 Peter Deeley. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 James Whale. 1.00 - 6.00 Gordon Astley.

6.00 Thy Living (912/455), 9.00 Roseanne Show (4924981), 9.50 The Jerry Springer Show (5769184), 10.40 Michael Cole (3970542), 11.30 Brookside (1807894).

12.00 Special Bables (3968875). 12.30

Cook (1997436), 1.35 Carri Cook, Won't Cook (7385349), 2.10 Jerry Springer (4771455), 3.00 Films Mandy (1952)

(1581900). **5.00** Beyond Bellef: Fact or Fic-

(2998287), 5.35 Can't Cook, Won't

(6403875). **7.00** Rescue 911 (7180962). **7.3**0

Cook (8783078), 6.10 Jerry Springer

Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (1766078).

Lasts Forever (9519875). 11,000 Sex Life

Down Under (1233788), 12.00 Close.

(38428875). 11.30 Casablanca (1942)

(53482818). 345 Twilight of Honour (1963)

(98525962). 1.45 White Heat (1949)

9.00 North by Northwest (1969)

TNT

8.00 Murder Call (9516788). 9.00 Nothing

Rescue 911 (1448435). 1.00 Ready, Steady,

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

starts today at the Cinque Ports Hotel (01424-439222). Sponsored by Hastings Borough Council with support from Onyx UK, it runs until Thursday week with nine rounds and just a single rest on New Year's Day.

The Congress also comprises other events held at the YMCA, St Paul's Road, St Leonards. There is a formidable Challengers, with several grandmasters, including at least Hebden, Arkell, Summerscale, Lalic, Glek and Miezis – and the exceptionally promising Murugan Thiruchelvam, only just 11; the fourth World Amateur Championship for unrated players; oneday under-11 and under-16 events on 2 January, and many more: while proceedings will only finish after a weekend tournament on Friday evening/Saturday/Sunday, 8-

10 January. Over the next week-and-a-half, I'll be reporting mainly from the battle front, but will also try to keep upto-date on other events in the chess 1. d4 e6 world. First though, a brief introduction to the Premier line-up.

There are five English players -Sadler, Miles, Emms, Plaskett and 5. e4 d6 myself - who I imagine are reasonably familiar. I've featured 15year-old Ruslan Ponomariov from the Ukraine several times recently which leaves four more.

The two qualifiers from last 11.63 Nd7 year's Challengers are Sergei 12. Be3 a4 Shipov (Russia) rated 2,635 and Mikhail Saltaev (Uzbekistan).

THE ANNUAL Hastings Premier Although Saltaev is rated "only" 2,525, he was the only player in the Elista Olympiad to defeat the Israeli Boris Avrukh - who slaughtered me

and got the gold medal on board 6. Frenchman Laurent Fressinet, just 17, is a sensible international master with a fairly positional style. Last, but by no means least, there is the Bosnian Ivan Sokolov from Sarajevo, though he moved to Holland during the recent war. A truly formidable player. Ivan tends to play fairly positionally, but carries a serious punch.

This is a recent example. If 5.Bxc3 6.Bxc3 Nxe4 7.Qg4! is strong. Sokolov gradually built up a powerful attack. If 24.Qg3 Qe5 provides some defence. Instead 24.Qd1! was decisive. At the end 26...gxf6 27.Nxf6 is murder.

Ivan Sokolov v Emir Dizdarevic Sarajevo 1998 Franco Indian Defence

14. f4 Na5 2. c4 Bb4+ 15. Ng3 Nb3 16. Bc2 Re8 3. Bd2 a5 17. Nh5 Nf8 4. Nc3 Nf6 18. f5 exd4 19. Qg4 Ng6 6. Bd3 e5 7. a3 Bxc3 20. cxd4 cxd4 21. Bt2 Qe7 8. bxc3 c5 9. Ne2 Nc6 22. Bxb3 axb3 10.0-00-0 23. Rxb3 Rc6 24. Qd1 Ne5

25. Bxd4 Kh8 13. Rb1 Ra6 26. f6 1-0

CREATIVITY LOKI

MEDIA MOGULS were asked to commission some alternative speakers and messages for the post-prandial slot that ER has monopolised. Who did they choose?

ER's lookalike, Jeanette Charles, vas a mischievous choice, designed to confuse suitably sozzled viewers, sunk into a drunken stupor, as to which channel they were actually watching. As was Camilla Parker-Bowles and her opening line "My future husband and I'. Mike Gifford, finding three-headed Cerberus much more entertaining than Royal Corgis, broadcasts Tails of the Unexpected on Radio Hades, with National Hunt racing over the Styx. While Susan Tomes would have the Queen's racehorses tell us how "racist" she really is.

Nicholas E Gough wants a fruitily bedecked Julian Clary to deliver the ueen's Peach, while – A Late Soap Flash - Tiffany walks into a mysterious cloud, enveloping Albert Square, becoming the Incredible Shrinking Woman, diminishing in size with each episode, until she vanishes into Grant's dandruff.

John Harvey has a Millennium Bug preaching of the calm before the storm. Andrew Duncan has William Hague on shepherding a lost flock, Myra Hindley on Cherishing the Young and Gerry Adams on Arms and the Man. Alan Meikle has General Augusto Pinocchio on Truth and Reconciliation, looking back on 20 anni horribili for the Chilean

people, and forwards to his state visit to Spain next year, in a spirit that the past can be dead and buried.

Joe Adams's channel features a liberating nude speech, and as an alternative to a Nativity Play, sex play with a banana, two walnuts and a ring doughnut. Paul Turner has a Yiddisher Jehovah bemoan his overworked Creation Week, Mary Flavin has a grumbling, overworked S Claus resign in pique. Bruce Birchall's vote went to Burma's An Yang Suu Kyi, who he sees as the Nelson Mandela of our generation. She would talk about the precarious state of human rights in the world. And so the Bafta for Best Platform for New Voices. And the winners are... Messrs Gifford, Gough

Dictionary of Quotations. On 31 December a "leap second" will be added at midnight. All major clocks in the world will stop for exactly one second. The last minute of the day will be 61 seconds long. There will be seven pips, not six, on the radio. (Why? To re-synchronise the earth's slowed-down rotationtime with atomic clocks.

and Meikle, who hold a Chambers

Write to Creativity. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL by 7 January. Prizes of the Chambers Dictionary of Quotations for the three most imaginative, but only two if a reader wins one for suggesting that week's theme. Next week: New Year Resolutions - for other people.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

BEFORE CHRISTMAS they Roger Donaldson's action have a bearing on the destination of the Premiership title.

Pierce Brosnan (right) and Linda Hamilton try hard in

8.00 Games World (4043523), 8.15

Games World (4033146), 8,30 Street Sharks (18981), 9,00 The Simpsons

(69243). 9.30 Earthworm Jim (44894).

10.00 Hercules - the Legendary Journeys (88338), 11.00 The New Adventures of Su-

perman (18542). 12.00 The Oprah Writing Show (34417). 1.00 Days of Our Lives (43165). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (82639). 3.00 Jerny Jones (53078). 4.00 Guilty! (65813). 5.00 Star Tretc Deep Space Nine

(3349) 6.00 Married with Children (1610) 6.30 Dream Team (2962) 7.00 The Simpsons (4078) 7.30 The Simpsons (5146). 6.00 Speed (3728) 8.30 Speed (2233).

8.00 Speed (\$7.50), 5.30 Speed (\$250), 9.00 When Animals Attack IV (\$7900), 10.00 King of the Hil (\$0726), 10.30 Mar-ried with Children (19766), 11.00 Dream Team (86542), 11.30 Star Trek: Deap

(55547). **1.30 - 8.00** Long Play (6512189).

7.00 Sky Sports Centre (8812271). 745 V-Max (861097). 7.45 Knockouts of 98

8.30 Racing News (50078). 9.00 Aerobics

Oz Style (47558). 9.30 Monday Night Football (2027). 11.00 Watersports World

(32146), **12.00** Aerobics (54894), **12.30** Figure Skating (43368), **2.30** Ford Monday

Night Football (73078), 4.00 Fastrax (8165). 4.30 Knockouts of 98 (4349), 5.00 World

(860368). **8.45** Sports Centre (8063962)

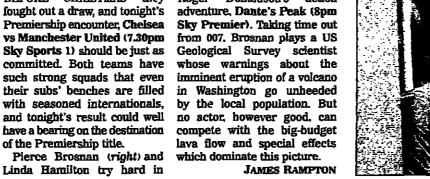
Space Nine (86252). 12.30 Highlands

SKY SPORTS 1

SKY ONE

Premiership encounter, Chelsea Sky Premier). Taking time out vs Manchester United (7.30pm from 007. Brosnan plays a US Sky Sports 1) should be just as Geological Survey scientist committed. Both teams have whose warnings about the such strong squads that even imminent eruption of a volcano their subs' benches are filled in Washington go unheeded with seasoned internationals, by the local population. But and tonight's result could well no actor, however good, can compete with the big-budget lava flow and special effects which dominate this picture.

Riders (1927011). 1.00 Connections 2 by James Burke (9459301). 1.30 Ancient



Wrestling Federation Live Wire (3981). **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (8542). **6.30** Inside Football (25726). 7.30 Ford Monday Night Football Special: Chelsea vs Manchester United (87957184). See Pick of the Day. 10.15 Sports Centre (655436). 10.30 Inside Scottish Football (59707).

11.30 Life of the Lions (99504), 1.30 Sky

Sports Centre (6248059), 1.45 Ford Foot-

ball Special Chelsea vs Manchester United

(685856). 3.15 Scottish Football (882547). **4.15-4.30** Sports Centre (73403301). SKY SPORTS 2 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (3074078). 7.30 Sports Centre (5393368), 7.45 Racing News (8547726), 845 World Windsurling (6758981), 8.45 Sports Centre (6151558), 9.00 Fish TV (2931504), 9.30 Fish TV (3003438), 10.00 Motor Sport (7921097). 100 Darts (3718875), 5.00 World Windsuring (6202243), 5.30 Fastrax (9912829). **6.00** Sports Unlimited (3015271), **7.00** Dans (5163691). **11.00** Fastrax (8347691). 11.30 Cricket Australia vs England (8799813). 2.00 Second Innings (5918450). 2.30 - 7.00 Cricket (4452301).

SKY SPORTS 3 8.00 Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (85191523). 10.00 Cricket Australia vs England (85194610). 10.30 Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (98061417), 3.00 Cricket Australia vs England (54281436), 5.30 Fish TV The Ultimate Fishing Show (\$3482271), 6.00 Fish TV Fishing Tales (\$3469184), 6.30 International Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (26512900), 8.00 Cricket Aus-

7.30 Xtrem Sports Yoz Mag (56320), 8.30 Xtrem Sports (56610), 9.30 Skiing (31184). 10.30 Sking (58610), 11.00 Alpine Sking (92707), 12.30 Football (89287), 1.30 Mo-Sport (74146). 2.00 Triathlon (17146). 3.30 Alpine Sking (11320), 4.30 Ski Jumping (62962), 6.00 Mountain Bike (75356). 7.30 Aerobics (22829), 8.30 Combat Sports (22438), 9.30 Football (75097). 11.30 Football (80165), 1.00 Close. UK GOLD

7.00 Crossroads (5515511). 7.30 Neighbours (4099165). 7.55 EastEnders (4406542), 8.30 The Bil (8712962), 9.00 The Bil (8736542), 9.30 Pride and Prejudice (9801436). 10.30 Angels (8732726). 11.00 Dallas (3146436). 11.55 Neighbours (32668287). 12.25 EastEnders (2929436). 1.00 Pride and Prejudice (7085691), 2.00 Dallas (6259875), 2.55 The Bill (2611726). 3.25 The Bill (6828726). 3.55 EastEnders (9881982). 4.30 Angels (76145558). 4.55 Films: Cerry On Christmas: Carry On Lov-ing (1970) (20529368). 6.45 Keeping Up Appearances (8914610). 7.25 Ever Decreasing Circles (51210962). 9.00 One Foot in the Grave (5692894). 9.40 Men Behav-

ing Badly (7550962), **10.20** Bottom (5210610), **11.00** The Bil (3126962), **11.30**

The Bill (4939928), 12.00 'Allo 'Allo' (7338092). 12.55 Ever Decreasing Circles (15169276). 2.10 Waiting for God (1070672).

2.45 - 7.00 Shopping (31840634).

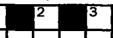
tralia vs England (79689610). 10.30 Super-bouts Ali v Spinks (14690349). 11.30 Close. PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clueless (2252), 7.30 Desmonds EUROSPORT

(6320). 8.00 Roseanne (1900). 8.30 Just Shoot Me (7707). 9.00 Cybil (92981). 9.30 Seinfeld (91813), 10.00 Frasier (53165), 10.30 Cheers (62813). 11.00 Festival of Fun I (73946). #L30 The Larry Sanders Show (18078). 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (15382), 1.00 Taxi (35721), 1.30 The Critic (80769), 2.00 Dr Katz (36011). 2.30 Soap (22818). 3.00 Hooper (55585): **3.30-4.00 Nightstand** (46498).

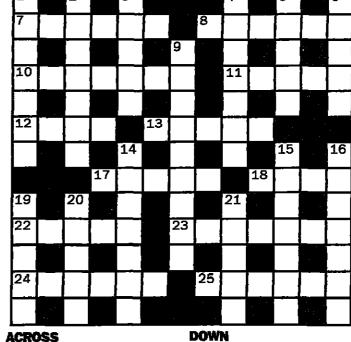
(89256818) **5.00** Close.

GRANADA PLUS 6.00 The Box (9192455). 7.00 On the Buses (8695829). 7.30 Fenn Street Gang (8501435). 8.00 That's My Boy (8207691). 8.30 Second Thoughts (8206962). 9.00 Coronation Street (8220542). 9.30 Emmerdale (8103455). 10.00 thirtysomething (8590320), **11.00** Hawaii Five-O (8510184), **12.00** Coronation Street (8217078), **12.30** Emmerdale (8107271), 1.00 How's Your Father? (8514900). 1.30 Watching (8106542). 2.00 thirtysomething (4182165), 3.00 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (4655455). 4.00 The Professionals (4634962). 5.00 Hawaii Five-O (2415726). 6.00 Emmerdale (8813271). 6-30 Coronation St (8804523). 7.00 Mission: Impossible (2310287). 8.00 The Professionals (2223707), 9.00 Classic Coronation Street (4630146), 9.30 Sez Les (8194707). **10.00 J**oker's Wild (8218707). 10.30 Hogan's Heroes (8227455). 1L00-2.00 As Granada Men & Motors (1429981).

CONCISE CROSSWORD



No.3805 Tuesday 29 December



7.40 Beadle's Hot Shots (785900). 10.15 Shadow Falls (296225). 12.05 Anatomy

BBC1 N IRELAND BBC1 N EYELAND
AS BBC1 LONDON & SE except:
6.35 Newsline (996894), 10.45 Come
Darcing 50 (147788), 11.25 Come Darcing 50 (121875), 12.25 42 Up (7299011),
12.25 42 Up (7299011),
12.25 42 Up (7299011),
12.25 42 Up (7299011) 1.30 Joins BBC News 24 (8940059).

BBC1 SCOTLAND
AS BBC1 LONDON & SE except:
6.00 Joins BBC News 24 (10955). 5.55
The Brotiys (789233). 6.15 A Party Political Broadcast by the Scotlish National Party (552829). 6.20 News (571349).
6.35 Reporting Scotland; Weather (109894)

BBC1 WALES As BBC1 LONDON & SE except: 6.35 Wales Today (996894).

ANGLIA
As Cariton except: 12.20 Anglia
News and Weather (6443639). 1.00 Dinosaurs (74184). 3.10 Anglia News and
Weather (1673894). 6.10 Beadle's Hot Weather (1673894). 6.10 Beadle's Hot Shots: Jeremy Beadle presents viewers' TV parodies and sketches, all made on their own camcorders (111981). 6.35 Anglia News (745613). 7.40 Wensum Year: A ye'll in the life of the River Wensum, industriough the heart of Norfolk and is renowned for its varied wildlife 1785900). 3.55 Coach: Hayden realises

his ambition to become a pro-football coach only to find life at the top is not as easy as he thought (6856276). 4.55 ITV Nightscreen (43589045).

As Cariton except: 9,25 ITN News Headines (4011726). 9.30 Central News (5902894). 12.20 Central News and Weather (6443639). 1.00 Dinosaurs: Sitcom about the Sinclairs, a family of civilised dinosaurs in prehistoric times (74184), 3.10 Central News (1673894).
6.10 Beadle's Hot Shots (11981). 6.35
Central News and Weather (745813).
7.40 Heart of the Country: Magazine about the countryside, Wendy Nelson goes deep under the Manifold Valley and Tony Employable (1615 Employable). and Tony Francis visits Buckingham Gao's 250th anniversary celebrations (785900). 10.00 ITN News Headlines; Weather (465875).

HTV WALES As Carlton except: 12.20 HTV News (6443639). 1.00 Shortland Street (7484). 3.10 HTV News (1673894). 6.10 the Making of What Dreams May Come: ne making or what Dreams May Coffe: A look at the making of What Dreams May Come, the latest film starring Robin Williams and Cuba Gooding Junior (111981). 6.35 Weles Tonight (745813). of Disaster: Series documenting natural disasters and their devastating effects. This edition reveals the aftermath of landslides, mudslides and avalanches (4130740). 3.55 Coach (6856276). 4.55 ITV Nightscreen (43589045).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

HTV WEST As HTV Wales except: 6.35 HTV West Weather (898813), 6.40 West Tonight (736349, 10.15 What a Carry Onl (653122) 11.15 Film: Carry On Cleo: The Carry On clowns rib Elizabeth Taylor's Cleopatra in one of their best efforts (based on an idea by William Shekespeere, as the credits helpfully point out). Regulars Sid James and Kenneth Williams are joined by Amanda Barrie (rather fetching in the title role) and Warren Mitchell as street-trader Spencius, brother of Marcus (41675813).

MERIDIAN As Carlton except: 10.25 Film: D2: The Mighty Ducks (69319184), 12.15 Meridian News and Weather (3137875). 1.00 Hope and Gioria: US sitcom about the unlikely friendship between a local talk show host and a handresser who live in the same Pittsburgh apartment building (74184). 3.10 Meridian News and Weather (1673894), **6.10** Meridian Tonight (101504), **6.40** Beadle's Hot Shots (736349), **7.40** Meridian Focus: Award-winning current affairs pro-gramme investigating hard-hitting issues. Two men who have chosen their Thai brides attempt to get married and bring their wives back to Britain (785900). 10.00 ITN News; Weather (474523). 10.10 Meridian News and Weather (361610). 3.55 Coach; Hayden lises his ambition to become a profootball coach only to find life at the top is not as easy as he thought (6856276). 4.55 ITV Nightscreen (43589045). WESTCOUNTRY

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 10.25 Film:
D2: The Mighty Ducks (69319184), 12.15
Westcountry News (3137875), 12.27 Buminations (6524556), 1.00 The Baldy
Man (74184), 3.10 Westcountry News
(1673894), 6.10 Westcountry Live
(705900), 7.40 Beadie's Hot Shote
(785900), 3.55 Coach (6856276), 4.55
ITV Nightscreen (43589045).

YORKSHIRE As Cariton except: 12.20 Calendar News Headlines (6443639). 1.00 Coronation Street (74184). 3.10 Calendar News Headlines (1673894). 6.10 Calendar News Headlines (466078). **6.20** News Review of the Year 1998 (144875). **7.40** Nadla's Story (785900). TYNE TEES

As Yorkshire except 12.20 North East News Headines (6443639) 3.10 North East News (1673894) 6.10 North East Tonight (705900) 7.40 The Time of

As Channel 4 except: 11.30 Bigger Breakfast: Babylon 5 (74176813). 12.30 Planed Plant (93002441). 1.00 Hansel and Gretal (69464504). 2.50 The Italian Kitchen (69263349). 4.30 Planed Plant (42572504). 5.30 Countdown (11903078). (427/204). 330 Columbom (1933/74). 6.00 Newyddion (1941/875). 6.05 Heno (497/9726). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm: Some-tring is worrying Cassie. Emma gets a big welcome in the cafe (3388127). 7.25 Cerdyn Post: Quiz show hosted by 7.25 Cerdyn Post: Ouz show hosted by Gareth Roberts and Emma Walford. Three couples compete for a dream hostay and big cash prizes (25561146). 9.00 Y Galon Hon: Special concert featuring Wales' leading folk and country singers (46057349). 9.15 Ankstmusic (26857894). 10.45 Brookside (66555962). 11.20 Johnny Vegas Television Show (30261788). 2.20 Close.

Failed to see (6) Corroded (6) Clothing (arch.) (7) Salute of gunfire (5)

Child's bed (4) Room (5) 17 Grinding tooth (5)

18 Test of knowledge (4) 22 Get to know (5) 23 Plot together (7)

24 Photographic apparatus (6) 25 Male feline (3-3)

DOWN

Hug (7) Pain-killing drug (7) High temperature (5)

Tuft of grass (7) Not moving (5) Dialect (5)

19 Loose (5)

Timing device (4-5) 14 Woodwork (7) 15 No longer to be found (7) 16 General pardon (7)

20 Date-trees (5) 21 Pry (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Shrill, 4 Anchot (Sri Lanka), 7 Penpusher, 9 Aura, 10 Fear, 11 Sober, 13 Lining, 14 Remind, 15 Clinch, 17 Fuffil, 19 Kudos, 20 Chap. 22 Balm, 23 Lightship, 24 Tiptop, 25 Enlist, DOWN: 1 Scrawl, 2 Idea, 3 Lap-dog, 4 Answer, 5 Chef, 6 Ramrod, 7 Principal, 8 Relief map, 11 Snack, 12 Rebus, 15 Cachet, 16 Hush up, 17 Focsle, 18 Lament, 21 Pint, 20
いた。



ETER ONCHIE

TELEVISION

REVIEW

ympic gold medallist Chris Irdman was a guest, but it I Brian, a 22-week-old

yle, a man so yely flat-footed that he naware that the sole

BBC1

gton Peas (Ř) (6764875). bgls Treasure Hunt (16305) 1 **8.30** Taz-Mania (78349). 20). **9.25** Fame Game (767). **10.20** News; Local Ne

vali**dren's BBC;** Blue Peter (8556726). Э

9,10

BIGINE The Echo.

ather (T) (207900).

10.45 Come Dancing 50. Rosemaris Ford celebrates 50 years of the cheesy dence show (S) (T) (775397).

up (R) (S) (1) (509/26)

120

7.35 Match of the Day (R) (S) (T) (8288610).

peout (8161726). 12.20 Laughing 85726). 12.30 The Weather Show (ws; Weather; Local News (21277)260 7353639), **1.00** (7353639), **1.00** 3), **1.15**

Neighbours. Herold, Medge and Lou are at each other's throats (S) (T) (712436).

6.20 News; Weather. (T) (57/349)

Newsroom South East. Regional (T) (996894).

(S) (T) (767504)

BBC News 24 (38323856). To 7am

DRAMA OF THE DAY

BBC2

ITIM Woman of Parts (Charles Chaplin Classic, unmissable silent melodrama about a who runs away to French capital (9772287).

1911 On the Town (Stanley Donen/Gene 1949 US). Lively musical (T) (21284610).

•a. Monteverdi's tale of sex, intrigue court of Emperor Nero courtesy of W and in five parts for easy digestion tale of sex, intrigue and revenge Nero courtesy of Welsh Nationa for easy digestion (S) (798610).

2. Classic performances from the ng T-Rex, David Bowle, Roxy Music, and Mott the Hoople. (S) (452691).

States to find out how, de predictions of politicisns s the White House (S) (T) (ent. Mark Lawson visits

7.30

Christmes Armistics. Arman Baynham and David Schneider ta Brent look at 1998 (S) (T) (280233). Armistice. Armando lannucol d David Schnelder take a snide s

GHOIGE Nixon

9F0 What's a Carry On? Barbara Windsor, Joan Sims, Leslle Philips, Jim Date, June Whitfield and others celebrate 40 years with classic clips, scenes cut by the censors and home-movie footage of the sters (T) (553122).

HIM Sword of the Valiant (Stephen Weeks 1983 UK). Dire Arthurian drama (373363). Nationwide Football League Extra (22295). **TILLY Carry On Cleo** (Gerald Thomas 1965 UK). Sublime parody of the big-budget Cleopetre (T) (553233).

UB40 - the Bones Say - Live in the New South Africa (R) (3455295), **5.05** Hurricanes (S) (T) (7746653), **5.30** Bugs Burny - Overtures to Disaster (9575672), **5.65** ITN Morning News (9235721). To 6am. 5.30

ctly Frank (S) (T) (9555900). 10.35 The West (5676829). 12.00 Cricket – the Ashes (S) (70707). Classics for Kids (S) (T) (7501542). 1.20 The

ven (Lewis Milestone 1960 US) ngled heist. Stars Frank Sinatra, ny Davis Jr (T) (28061287).

The Simpsons. Homer's poker-playing buddles shame him into going to night school (S) (T) (217639

archives, Sweet, Suzi

Iners. You assume all lottery winners splurge on see and fast cars; but some are planning to make a rm come true for needy children (\$) (T) (785900).

1980 US). all sorts of

10.00 ITN News; Weather (T) (465875).

Carlton

O GMTV (1761097) 9.25 ITN News Headlines (T) (4002078)

6.00

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THE TUESDAY REVIEW (
The Independent 29 December 1998

7.30 The Magic School Bus (R) (52962). **8.00** The Big Breakfast (S) (T) (20829). **10.00** Bigger Breakfast: Planet Pop (27788). **10.30** Bigger Breakfast: Eerie, incliana (R) (T) (74523). **11.00** Bigger Breakfast: Maclison (S) (T) (8097). **11.30** Bigger Breakfast: Babylon 5 (S) (T) (8214691).

Children's ITV: Tiny Toon Adventures (R) (S) (T) (1670271). 10.00 Brillant Creatures (R) (S) (T) (8069981). IIIM D2: The Mighty Ducks (Sam Weisman 1995 US). Bland sporty "family comedy" (S) (T) (69300436).

Your Shout (6443639). 12.30 News; Weather (T) (93146). 1.00 London Today (T) (7484).

EIIM Homeward Bound: the Incredible Journey (Duwayne Dunham 1993 US). Tear-jerking enimal adventure story (S) (T) (34320).

Cartoon (8459691), 3.05 ITN News Headlines (T) (8458962), 3.10 London Today (T) (1673894).

IIIIM Superman (Richard Donner 1978 US). Oscar-winner based on the classic comic strip (T) (93617639).

The Bear. Another chance to see Raymond Briggs' – who brought us *The Snowman* ~ latest animation, about a bear who comes to live with a little girl (H) (T) (829).

Name That Tune. Music quiz presented by Jools Holland. Including tunes by Barry White, the Lightning Seeds and the Rembrandts (2033184).

100 Per Cent. Dreary game show (S) (2030097).

If III. Murphy's War (Peter Yates 1971 UK) Wartime action drama about a manic Irish seaman hunting a German U-boat. Not a taxing part, then, for Peter O'Toole (T) (1363078).

Maxim Vengerov Masterciass (7470368). 3.05 The Village (9643639). 3.20 Tool Stories (S) (T) (7205833). 3.50 Fitteen to One Highlights (S) (T) (9171320). 4.30 Countdown (S) (T) (9268436). 4.55

4.30 Countdown
 ike (S) (T) (7507691).

IDENTIFY North (Rob Reiner 1994 US). Eljah Wood is young boy who dislikes his parents, and heads off to find replacements. Inside the large pink rabbit, by the way, is Bruce Willis. Oh yes (T) (82849542).

10.20

Sunset Beach (S) (T) (9693878), 11.10 Leeza (R) (S) (B177639), 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (7204097).
12.30 Family Affairs (S) (T) (2825707), 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (6688726), 1.30 Wowlabgroovy (2824078), 2.00 300 Per Cent Gold (S) (1278556), 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (2862233).

8.30

[2][M] Leasie and Neeka (Dick Moder 1968 US). Canine escapades in the wilds of Aleske (27291523).

The Wind in the Willows (R) (25565165), **6.25** Roobarb (37052271), **6.30** Dappledown Farm (R) (4253366), **7.00** Wimzle's House (R) (6689455), **7.30** Milkshakel (S) (2228456), **7.35** Havakazoo (R) (S) (6963558), **8.00** George of the Jungle (R) (7294610).

News; Weather (T) (888558).

London Tonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East (1) (101504). Goodnight Mr Bean. More quirky comedy from Rowan Atkinson's accident-prone creation (R) (S) 6.00 Wise Up World. An hour-long edition of a magazine programme made by and for young people. This week, the theme is poverty and the ever-widening gap between rich and poor countries. Fourteen-year-old Esme follows MP Clare Short on a visit to Ghana. The impoverished West African country has been given a £50 million grant by the British government (T) (41897).

Emmerdale. The Dingles rally round their Christmas surprise, and Andy discovers the truth about Billy. The Windsors struggle to cope (S) (T) (167455).

7.00

The Year in 30 Seconds. Advertising creative Trevor Beattle tries to capture the essence of 1998 in a 30-second commercial (3184).

7.00 5 News, Including First on Five. National and International news with Kirsty Young (S) (T) (176146).

7.30 Polar Odyssey. The first few weeks in the life of a seal pup in the Gulf of St Lawrence (F) (S) (T) (2010233)

6.30 Family Affairs. Claire tries to persuade Holly and Siobhan to pose for some raunchy photos. Annie is besotted with Dave (S) (T) (2021349).

Vengerov: Playing by Heart. A look at a few hectic months in the life of acclaimed violinist Maxim Vengerov. It's an exhausting whiti as he goes from collaborating with planist Daniel Barenboim in Chicago, to working as a musical envoy for UNICEF, and giving to working as a musical envoy for UNICEF, and giving the control of the contr

8.00 The Sweeney, J disregard for autho an old allegation of (6264981).

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لمكذا من الاعل

8,30 **Brookside.** More gloom and gloom from the most cheerless soap in Britain (T) (8639).

9.00 [DII013] Stonehenge: Secret of the Stones.
The Willishire standing stones have excited plenty of theories during their long history. Could the truth be out there at last? See Documentary of the Day, below (1436).

9,00

10.00 Rising Damp. Leonard Rossiter is unmissable as the cantankerous landlord Rigsby in this classic strcom (R) (7) (66504).

10.30 Eddle Izzard - Giorious. The surreal comic explores the beginning of time, toasters and shower units in highlights from a London show last year (6764097). 11.35 Eurotrash Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells (259639).
12.05 [3][M] Dead Man (Jim Jarmusch 1995 US/Ger).
Weird western starring Johnny Depp (T) (72040540).

10.50 The Jack Docherty Show. Guests are Mark Homer, Jimmy Nesbitt and the League of Gentlemen (S) (2551523)

11.30 Leeza (1711436).

3.50 2,20 IN Pick-Up on South Street 1953 US). Provocative Cold War drama **Sinbad the Sallor** (9539924). **5.35** 2 Stupid Dogs (S) (T) (9572585). To 6am. Better-Ihan-average B movie (258301).

2.35

Major League Baseball Review (90386214). 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (2016009). 5.30 100 Per Cent (H) (S) (783388). To Sam.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY CLAIRE GERVAT

12:10 [1][[7] In Cold Blood (Richard Brooks 1967 US).
Grim drama based on a best-selling true-life crime report (14030856).

DOCUMEN TARY OF THE DAY

esn't seem very well designed two-part documentary looks ory that Stonehenge was symbolic sexual act between a an be seen every year at at the case, you would have





HE ECHO (9pm BBC1, right) The name Minette Walters ings to mind unsettling dramas such as The Scold's Bridle at The Sculptress. This two-part psychological thriller is in similar vein. A tramp is found dead in a rich woman's trage, apparently the victim of starvation. Six months later, urage, apparently the victim of starvation. Six months later, urnalist Mike Deacon (Clive Owen) is sent to stir up the ory again. It starts simply enough, but as he digs further eacon finds himself embroiled in a tangled story. Why, for

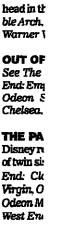
ight) There are more thec





FILM OF THE DAY

NIXON (10.15pm BBC2, right) It's hard to believe it's coincidence that Oliver Stone's biopic of Tricky Dickie is being screened at a time when his unofficial title of "most controversial political figure of the century" is under threat from a new challenger. The film starts in 1973 as Nixon listens to the tapes which will be his undoing, and flashes back to his chidhood and forward through his climb up the political ladder to his subsequent disgrace and resignation. Anthony Hopkins gives a powerful performance in the lead, portraying him as a confused and emotional man, at once triumphant and despairing, and always thoroughly humaan.



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